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Warsaw Pact Ministers on Future Relations

AU1211102390 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 7 Nov 90 p 6

[Interview with various participants in the meeting of Warsaw Pact foreign and defense ministers by NEPSZABADSAG correspondents in Budapest on 3 November: "What Will Eastern Europe Look Like After the Warsaw Pact? Contacts Should Not Be Severed"—first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] As we already reported, the heads of six Warsaw Pact countries' foreign affairs and defense ministries met in Budapest on 3 November. Our correspondents—Oszkar Fuzes, Scott Herron, and Zoltan Szalai—prepared short interviews with some of the participants, and focused primarily on the future of Eastern Europe after the Warsaw Pact ceases to exist and also what will happen until then. We also took this opportunity to ask about other subjects.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Kvitsinskiy:

[NEPSZABADSAG] Why did the Soviet Union ask to postpone the meeting of the Warsaw Pact's Political Consultative Committee?

[Kvitsinskiy] Because it will be better to meet after we have signed the Vienna disarmament agreements and after the Helsinki 2 summit in Paris. The agreement on the basic principles of Warsaw Pact-NATO relations could also be reached soon. In other words, a lot of changes are expected, changes that the Political Consultative Committee will have to take into consideration.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Will this meeting in Budapest be the last Political Consultative Committee meeting?

[Kvitsinskiy] I do not think so.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Do you think it is possible that the Eastern European regional cooperation will be revived at some time in the future?

[Kvitsinskiy] I think it has not yet ceased to exist. I think that life constantly turns us back to the Eastern European regional cooperation. Both the bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects have a lot of advantages to offer to the participants. Besides, one cannot simply do away with something overnight. This cooperation has a relatively long history and the ties are numerous and important, so it is not worth simply severing them.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Does Moscow have some kind of a priority list concerning the East European countries? If so, where does Hungary stand? Is it true that Budapest is now much less important for the Soviet Union than before?

[Kvitsinskiy] I have seen no such list. I think that life always puts everyone in his own place sooner or later, and this is also true of the Soviet Union, Hungary, the United States, Great Britain, or France. Naturally, relations are now changing in the whole of Europe, including Soviet-Hungarian relations. However, Hungary remains our neighbor, and we surely will never give any cause for our relations to deteriorate.

Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase:

[NEPSZABADSAG] What do you think about the situation of Hungarians in Romania?

[Nastase] There are a lot of positive changes now. The Democratic Association of Hungarians in Romania is the second largest party in the Romanian Parliament, and thus, we solved the parliamentary representation of this national minority, unlike the representation of national minorities in the Hungarian parliament. There are a lot of opportunities now for the development of Hungarian culture in Transylvania, and Hungarian-language education is increasingly gaining ground. Naturally, like everywhere and always, there are still many things that require improvement, and I am convinced that it is now more important that favorable changes have taken place, and we must acknowledge these changes first of all, then we will discuss further tasks.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What was the subject of your talks with Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky?

[Nastase] I had short but very open and sincere talks with Geza Jeszenszky. These talks were very constructive, too. We discussed ways of improving our communication channels, because often statements and declarations are distorted by the press. Mr. Jeszenszky gave me copies of two of his speeches and asked me to publish them in Romania, because these speeches were probably misunderstood in Bucharest. In addition, we agreed that a better awareness of each other's position is favorable in itself.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Are Romanian-Hungarian relations improving or deteriorating?

[Nastase] I think they are improving. Negotiations are under way at the foreign ministry and state secretary levels, and further talks by the foreign ministers will be held in the coming two weeks. The direction of these talks is positive.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky:

[NEPSZABADSAG] What was the subject of your talks with the Romanian foreign minister?

[Jeszenszky] First of all, we talked about ways to avoid misunderstandings originating from the distorted quotation of various statements. It is very harmful to convey messages through the press. We had very little time, so we could not discuss other specific issues.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Will the Warsaw Pact continue to play the role of a regional political coordinating body?

[Jeszenszky] It is an open secret that, as a military organization, the Warsaw Pact will cease to exist next year at the latest. However, this is not a bad form for political consultations either, and we are ready to use it, together with all the other forms.

Deputy CSFR Foreign Minister Robert Harencar:

[NEPSZABADSAG] What is Prague's position on the agreement on the national quota of conventional armaments signed in Budapest?

[Harencar] We consider the agreement to be quite favorable. The delay prior to the signing of the agreement was caused by the fact that the participants were not prepared to solve the problems of storing the tanks. In the end, we cleared all the obstacles. Along with the agreement signed by the foreign ministers, there will also be another document signed by the chiefs of staff. Warsaw and Prague will also submit certain separate opinions to this additional document.

[NEPSZABADSAG] After announcing its intention to leave the military organization of the Warsaw Pact, what is Prague's position on the idea of maintaining the Warsaw Pact as a political coordination body?

[Harencar] We want a reorganization of the Warsaw Pact. We wanted to deal with this issue here in Budapest, but the Soviet Union asked to postpone the meeting. The Hungarian side also agreed to hold the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee at a later date. It is sure now that the Warsaw Pact can only be a political body at most.

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Ljuben Gotsev:

[NEPSZABADSAG] What are the possibilities of renewing the increasingly narrowing Bulgarian-Hungarian cooperation?

[Gotsev] I am optimistic. The current slight decrease in our relations is a good reason to jointly increase our search for common interests in the future. Naturally, everything should be in harmony with the changes in Europe and the world at large. There are many new developments in the Balkans which must be taken into consideration. However, there are also steady things that have not changed, like our interest to maintain friendly relations with Hungary.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Does Sofia have separate concrete ideas on how to develop Bulgarian-Hungarian relations?

[Gotsev] I would not use the word "separate," all the more so because everything is available for better and warmer bilateral relations. There is a mutual sympathy between us which goes back centuries, and we know each other well. Naturally, we now need a lot of new meetings to review the basic principles and the concrete tasks.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What will Eastern European cooperation look like, if such a cooperation emerges at all?

[Gotsev] There will be such a cooperation, but it will develop slowly and will have a totally different quality. A lot of objective factors bind us together, and mutual interests will continue to assert themselves in the future. We can only participate in building the European home together.

[NEPSZABADSAG] How is Bulgaria affected by the crisis in Yugoslavia?

[Gotsev] We will not interfere in Yugoslavia's internal affairs at all. We feel that complex and sensitive things are happening in Yugoslavia, but we think that the peoples of Yugoslavia will find the way to extricate themselves from the current crisis.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What about the regional cooperation in the Balkans? Will Budapest have observer status at this forum?

[Gotsev] The regional cooperation in the Balkans is becoming increasingly systematic: New meetings will take place and a permanent secretariat will probably begin its activity in Sofia soon. On a mutual basis, Hungary could be given observer status, if we also receive such status at the forums of the Pentagonale.

Colonel General Vasile Ionel, Romanian chief of staff and national defense state secretary:

[NEPSZABADSAG] As a military man, what do you think about the Budapest agreement on the arms quotas of the six countries?

[Ionel] This is a very important phase in the development of the Warsaw Pact member countries' armed forces, and it is also an important phase from the viewpoint of the NATO. The security of individual countries and of Europe as a whole requires responsibility. We came to the joint conclusion that reducing all the country's armed forces and determining the national armament quotas was a very important thing, and one could also say that this agreement is of historical importance.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What do you, as a Romanian general, think about the future of the Warsaw Pact?

[Ionel] We agree that the Warsaw Pact has lost its military role. The alliance has to be restructured.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Have you now met with Hungarian military leaders?

[Ionel] Yes, we have had bilateral meetings too. However, I often met with Hungarian Chief of Staff Borsits in the past. He is not only a colleague, but we also have a quite friendly relationship, and we agreed to work out an agreement on further developing relations between the Romanian and Hungarian Armies soon.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What will this agreement contain?

[Ionel] We have a lot of opportunities for cooperation. We are planning cooperation in all areas, from the ministerial level down to the military subunits, and exchanges of experience from military training down to military style. It is very important to get to know each other and understand each other better.

Party's Leading Role Enhanced, Not Weakened

AU0911124090 Tirana ATA in English 0754 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Report on ZERI I POPULLIT editorial on "Importance of the Decisions of the 12th Plenum of the CC (Central Committee) of the Party"]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] at work to carry out the numerous tasks we are faced with, the newspaper "ZERI I POPULLIT" stresses in today's editorial on the importance of the decisions of the 12th plenum of the party CC [Central Committee].

The party, the editorial stresses, was entitled the leading role since its founding. It was the only political force which appeared before the people with a clear platform for the road it was going to pursue and the people powerfully supported it. For half a century the party has been affirmed as a leading force and with an indispensible authority. The time lays before the party the need of coping with the new situations and to deserve its sublime leading role through work, militancy, advanced thinking.

The 12th plenum recommends that the new constitution lays the stress on the article on the party as "the only leading political force of the state". The changes proposed on the status of the party ,"ZERI I POPULLIT" stresses are dictated by a concrete reality, where the party has not gained its leading role not through decrees,laws, but through self-denying work and struggle, loyalty to the interests of the people, the homeland and socialism. This does not mean that in this way the party limits the attributes of a leading party and its role. On the contrary, the editorial stresses, this proves that in the future too the party will be a political subject which represents the most advanced and patriotic force of the society, closely linked with the interests of the people.

The transformation of the existing social organizations in full pluralistic subjects, reconstructing their relations with the party and state, "ZERI I POPULLIT" writes, will practically bring about such changes and improvements in the social life which will further enhance the role of these organizations. The demand of the party that these organizations be no longer considered "levers" but have their own independent plans shows of its care for the social mass organizations and testifies to the tolerance and emancipation of the party itself to treat them as completely equal partners fully capable to discuss, and decide on various problems of the country's life.

This is not an withdrawal of the party from the leading role. The step made, the newspaper points out, should be considered as an imperative of the time. Here we have to do not with the weakening of the leading role of the party, but with its enhancement. This would be a genuine and effective leadership having no need for formal formulas and acts, and legal codifications.

The detachment of the party's activity from the state one means that each perform its duties, that the state acts first and above all through laws, as a juridical state, because the party's policy, the interests of the country's working people are reflected in the laws. But this does not mean that the party will not engage in economy or other activities covered by state organisms. It will engage in them, but not by doubling the power organs, not as a state party, not as a state above state, but by mobilising the social opinion, the working people to solve the great problems of economy, ideology, politics and social phenomena.

These measures adopted by the party make up a real reform so that Albania, our beloved homeland, keep pace with contemporary levels, the editorial of "ZERI I POPULLIT" says in conclusion. The 12th plenum considered the example set by the Communists, their militant commitment as an appeal for the implementation of the great tasks set forth, for the solution of the economic and political problems set by time.

People's Assembly Ends First Day of 8th Session

AU1211204090

[Editorial Report] Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian at 1900 GMT on 12 November carries a 20-minute report on the first day of the eighth session of the 11th legislature of the People's Assembly. A reporter describes the arrival of Ramiz Alia, president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, and "other party and state leaders," and states that "People's Assembly Chairman Petro Dode presented the following agenda:

"1. Report of the Presidium of the People's Assembly on the draft law on elections to the People's Assembly.
"2. Report of the Judicial Commission of the People's Assembly on this draft law.
"3. Examination and approval of the draft law on elections to the People's Assembly.
"4. Report on the creation of a special commission to examine and add to the Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and a relevant draft decree.
"5. Report of the Council of Ministers and draft laws on state arbitrage and accountancy.
"6. Report of the People's Assembly Plan and Budget Commission on the two aforementioned draft laws.
"7. Examination of the approval of the draft law on state arbitrage.
"8. Examination and approval of the draft law on accountancy.
"9. Examination and approval of the draft law on some changes in the law on the administration, maintenance, documentation, and circulation of material goods and money.
"10. Draft law for the abolition of the Ministry of Communal Economy.
"11. Examination and approval of decrees issued by the Presidium of the People's Assembly."

Eleni Selenica, member of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, then presents the report under item one of the agenda, stating that "the deepening of socialist democracy has entered an important phase," and summarizes the draft electoral law.

Dashurie Gjunkshi, chairman of the Judicial Commission, presenting the report under item two of the agenda, emphasizes the democratic qualities of the draft electoral law.

Under item three of the agenda, Deputies Manxhar Binaj and Naum Prifti also speak on the democratic character of the draft electoral law. Foto Cami, Albanian Workers Party Central Committee member, speaks on the "dynamic development of democratization" in Albania, saying "a new era is opening in front of us." He says later, "There is not and cannot be a single model of democracy, valid for all countries at all times, just as there cannot be unified criteria to assess it everywhere in the world. The level of the development of democracy and the forms of its realization are conditioned by a range of economic, political, social, and cultural factors, both internal and external. Democracy assumes a specific aspect adapted to each country. Foreign recipes, therefore, do not fit everywhere; even more importantly, their imposition under pressure of various kinds conflicts with the sovereign right of every people to choose and decide its road of development for itself."

Deputy Enver Halili states that "the process of further democratization... is not simply a subjective wish or a step imposed from abroad. Proceeding consistently, naturally, and incessantly on this road, in accordance with the objective conditions of our socioeconomic development, people's cultural level and the level of emancipation of the whole of society, it has been and will remain a principal characteristic and determinant of the development of our socialist society and state."

The days' proceedings end at this point, to be resumed at 0900 on 13 November.

Carcani Interviewed on Economic Problems

AU1111143590 Tirana ATA in English 0800 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Interview with Premier and Council of Ministers Chairman Adil Carcani by unidentified Tirana Television reporter on 9 November; place not given]

[Text] Tirana, November 10 (ATA)—[Question:] The report delivered by Comrade Ramiz [Alia] at the 12th plenum of the Central Committee deals among others also with the difficulties created, especially as a result of the extraordinary drought of this year.

Among the sectors that were most hit by it was also agriculture. What are the measures taken by the government and what about meeting the demands of the market with foodstuff products?

Reply: It is true that this year our economy faced numerous difficulties of an objective and subjective character. The greatest nonfulfillments were noticed in those sectors that were affected by the prolonged drought, as the electric energy and agriculture. Instead of exporting electric energy as envisaged by the plan, we imported and continue to import it.

In agriculture, especially the bread grains, industrial plants, potatoes, etc., suffered nonfulfillments.

In face of this situation, the Council of Ministers has adopted the necessary measures so that the food for the people, despite the nonfulfillments in production, be not affected. To this aim, the appropriate quantities of bread grains, sugar, and food greases are ensured from import since now. The same with the necessary contingent of white beans, potatoes, etc., which will guarantee a normal supply of the people with the necessary food items, for the first three-month period and the whole of 1991.

Question: Let us now pass to another question, this too of great importance. The year 1991 envisages that the new mechanism be applied in all the economic enterprises.

Can you explain us how is it thought about finding a solution to the question of the material-technical supply, so that the new economic mechanism has a good beginning?

Reply: Certainly, the implementation of the new economic mechanism all over the country demands among others also a rhythmic supply with raw materials, auxiliary one, etc. It is a fact that during this year, because of the failures in production, in export and import in many production sectors and enterprises, there have also been interruptions in work and a considerable number of workers are paid with 80 percent of their payment. For the good beginning of 1991, the Council of Ministers has taken and is taking actions to ensure in time the raw materials and the auxiliary ones from import such as cotton, synthetic threads and fibres, rubber, leather, plastic material, industrial oils, cokefied coal, oil and steel tubes, steels of various brands, foundry cast-iron, processed aluminum, fodder for the livestock, pharmaceutical raw materials and other items.

Efforts are being made that a part of these materials come during December this year so that production starts normally in January 1991. To this aim, the foreign trade organs are working to ensure them in time.

Besides this, measures are taken also for the ensurance of the raw materials and other materials at home, as the timber materials, the construction materials, fuels, etc.

But here it is of importance and decisive the fact that every organism and production unit, every worker of the town and the countryside, make maximum efforts to realize and overfulfill the tasks they are charged with. Only in this way can that material and technical supply be guaranteed for the normal development of production and the full application of the new economic mechanism.

Naturally, the measures adopted and being adopted by the government, for both the problems we treated of above, have required sacrifices, especially for the fact that they render more difficult our foreign-currency balance-sheet. For this reason the commitment and mobilization of all working people is needed, because as Comrade Ramiz Alia said at the 12th plenum of the party Central Committee...: "The country's progress depends on our work and only on our work. Nothing comes by itself or as a gift from someone."

I call on the working class, the working peasantry, specialists and intelligentsia that with a high spirit of responsibility and a sharp discipline, they intensify their efforts for the strengthening of the economy, for the fulfillment of the plans, so that the people's well-being be constantly uplifted, according to the very important tasks the 12th plenum of the party Central Committee laid down before the state organs and the economic ones.

Fiscal System Described; Need for Reform Outlined

AU0911104090 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 30 Oct 90 pp 1-2

[Article by Anastas Angjeli, candidate of sciences: "Reorganization of the Fiscal System—A Necessity of the Times"]

[Text] The changes taking place in the economy are all-embracing and interdependent. They involve the operation of the economy on the principle of self-financing and the reorganization of retail services and handicrafts alongside an expansion of the production sphere and a greater turnover of goods, as well as a significantly greater influence of the role of the market in our economy. Our economic relations with the world are also expanding. This entire complex process requires a new conception of the reciprocal relations between the state and economic bodies and individuals and means that the financial ties between them must be put on a new footing. The up-to-date reorganization of the fiscal system has a particularly important role here.

What Is the Fiscal System?

The fiscal system includes the system of taxes and customs duties which are used in relations between the state and judicial entities (economically organized bodies, enterprises, agricultural or handicraft cooperatives, the activities of the private retail and handicraft sector, etc.), and individuals. In our country, the present reorganization of this system merely affects relations between the state and judicial entities and the activities of other economic bodies, and there is no question of the reorganization of the system of taxes and duties on the populace (consumers). We think, however, that the fiscal system should affect individuals who are employed in activities carried out by foreign firms in our country or in other private employment, to avoid the creation of social problems. The reorganization of the fiscal system also implies the creation and operation of the relevant administration.

Taxes in general draw into the budget a part of the earnings from productive activity and services carried out by judicial entities and individuals and from the activities of private trade services and handicrafts. As will be realized, these funds are redistributed to the benefit of the country's development and the population. They may be direct (with proportional, progressive, or regressive rates), or indirect. Taxes also have a narrower meaning; they are payments made for a range of services which the state carries out for judicial entities or physical persons (for example, taxes on the peasant market, port taxes, the use of land for building or other purposes, notaries' services, the services of an advocate, etc.). Meanwhile, customs duties, as a form of indirect taxation on goods which cross the state border as a consequence of export-import relations, transit traffic, and the activities of Albanian citizens who travel abroad may be of an economic, financial, or political nature according to their purpose.

In our case, the fiscal system has existed as a part of the financial system. As in other spheres of economic and social relations, particular elements of it have fallen out of use and other new ones have arisen and come into operation.

The all-embracing changes which are taking place and will take place in the economy create the need for a reorganization of the fiscal system so that the state, through this system, may not only exercise control over all forms of economic activity, but will help in the implementation of economic policy.

Under these conditions, the fiscal system will be used on the one hand as an effective lever to absorb revenue into the state budget to increase funds for the benefit of the public sector, the administration, etc.; on the other hand, to create a better form of redistribution among social groups (not to give rise to differences and inequality) of a portion of the earnings of different economic activities and sectors. It also secures the necessary revenue for the maintenance and operation of the fiscal administration itself, etc. Undoubtedly, the reorganization of this system—in other words, the operation of taxes and customs duties—seeks to protect the interests of our society, to protect domestic production, and to give it the opportunity of uninterrupted development.

The qualitative reorganization of this system demands not only work and financial experience (something which is very necessary), but also fast and skilled concrete action. Compiling and approving the relevant regulations, and their rigorous enforcement in practice, are an urgent tasks if we are to confront current problems successfully.

The First Steps

In reorganizing the fiscal system and adapting it better to the new economic mechanism, the relevant organs (those in finance, the banks, and the state) have begun to act. Work has been done to reorganize the peasant and private market (the compilation of regulations and standard documentation which will be used in the performance of various duties, the approval of regulations for the exercise of professions, measures taken for assessing taxes on profits, etc.).

Despite this, it must be said that the thorough reorganization of the fiscal system somehow took the relevant organs "by surprise" and caught them off guard. This was especially clear in view of the problems emerging from cooperation with foreign firms and the development of retail services, private handicrafts, etc.

Increased economic and financial cooperation with the world demands an awareness and effective use of the rights and duties this kind of activity entails. This involves an awareness and use of new elements in the banking and credit mechanism and of the statutes and regulations governing the organization and operation of the economic and financial mechanism of enterprises which work in cooperation with foreign capital. Of special importance is an awareness of the rights and duties which stem from invested capital and the distribution of profits, and especially, a prior assessment of the forms and methods of financial arrangements between them and the state, which cannot be made except with the help of the fiscal system. The conduct of cooperation with foreign firms demands certain prior conditions which converge at one point: How much will be invested, what earnings are expected, what taxes and duties will be paid to the state, and what will the net profit be? These matters cannot be solved simply by the "goodwill" of the interested parties, but only on the basis of the relevant regulations in the fiscal system and a better awareness of them.

In such a field, it is necessary to rule that taxes are claimed by the state regardless of the sale price of the goods produced or price fluctuations. Nor can we fail to consider the introduction of a tax on the use of land (land, sea, or air) for the purposes of prospecting or building, and a land use tax, which can be paid in cash or in kind (for example, in oil where cooperation with the oil extraction industry is concerned).

Furthermore, such organizations as the Tax Directorate, the Financial Inspectorate, and the Fraud Squad have been or are being created within the context of the reorganization of the fiscal administration. Their functions involve rights and duties in inspecting goods which are traded and services which are performed, enforcing hygienic and sanitary regulations and trading practices, and especially inspecting the prices charged and gathering financial obligations to the state in the shape of a tax on profits. Moreover, these organs, through a beneficial use of legal and economic measures and sanctions (fines, suspension of or a ban on the right to exercise a profession, carry out a trade, etc.) will exercise strict control on any cases of abuse or illegal trading which may be observed.

Time Does Not Wait

When one talks about reorganizing the tax system, it is a matter of an urgent new conception of this system in depth and breadth. This first involves the drafting of a general tax law for the taxes to be enforced in our country. It must contain general information about the principles of the fiscal system, the parties to be subject to tax, the kinds of taxes and duties, etc. The reorganization of the fiscal system also demands the grouping and classification of different kinds of tax in various kinds of economic and productive activity, handicraft services, the state, cooperative, and private markets, and economic, trading, and financial relations with the world. Of course, this involves delegation to the relevant central and local state organs, etc. This is because, for instance, the same tax system cannot be applied in relations between the state and economic enterprises and between the state and the small private market or the state market.

Moreover, with a deeper conception of the state monopoly of private trade and broader opportunities for direct ties for enterprises in the export-import sphere, refinements in this field have become more necessary. These will involve compiling regulations for customs policy and their urgent application in practice. A policy of protecting and developing our economy's production and trade in accordance with the new economic mechanism must be kept in mind here. Moreover, the state not only controls the conduct of export-import relations through customs policy and the system of customs duties, but uses these as an instrument to erect a "barrier" when phenomena which are a consequence of these relations leave room for speculation or cause concern and pronounced social differences. Furthermore, adjustments in this field, where they are necessary and similarities exist, may bear in mind international trade and customs agreements (such as GATT etc.) and the process of European fiscal union.

The reorganization of the fiscal administration demands quicker work, particularly from the competent organs, the Ministry of Finance, executive committees, etc. If the "seedlings" of this administration now only exist in the central authorities, they must be organized fast and begin their work at other lower levels. In this way, an organic, compact, and dynamic fiscal administrative structure will be created in the course of the total reorganization of the fiscal system.

Using or failing to use the time available in this field, and in others relating to the new economic mechanism, will bring benefit or do harm to the economy. We need this benefit today more than ever before. In conclusion, it must be stressed that, alongside our many years of experience in this field, we can gain something from the process of European fiscal and customs union.

* Domestic Reaction to Kadare Decision

91P20021B Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Oct 90 p 8

[Text] On Thursday, 25 October, the Albanian writer Ismail Kadare obtained political asylum in France. He and his family were immediately given a safe residence, where, according to his publisher, M. Claude Durand, the president director-general of Fayard, he will have police protection for some time.

Although it was not announced by the official media in Albania, Ismail Kadare's decision to remain in France was known almost immediately in Tirana because of the—unusual—presence of a large number of foreign journalists who had come to cover the Balkan foreign ministers' conference on Wednesday and Thursday in the Albanian capital.

When they learned the news from the evening broadcast of the Voice of America, some young people in Tirana, without fear of the police, expressed their support for the writer to foreigners passing by. On the other hand, in official Albanian circles, after the first shock had passed, Kadare's decision aroused a certain sentiment of anger towards a person who had been part of the system and who had a privileged situation compared to the rest of his compatriots.

"Kadare had called the refugees in the embassies excrement of Albanian society and now he is acting like them," a representative of the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told AFP. "I do not understand it. He had everything—the living conditions of a millionnaire, all his books could be published, he could go abroad whenever he wanted," the general secretary of the Journalists Union, Ymer Minxhozi, said. The reactions were just as severe in literary circles: "Even Vaclav Havel did not leave his country when his situation was difficult after he got out of prison," a friend of Kadare's, the poet Rudolf Marko said.

Other Albanians questioned by foreign journalists stressed that the announcement of Kadare's defection at the time that Tirana was hosting an international conference ran the risk of annihilating all the efforts of Albania to emerge from its diplomatic isolation. For Elisabeth Champseix, a teacher who spent six years in Tirana and is the coauthor of a book on Albania, Kadare's departure "means that the showcase of the country is collapsing."

A deputy chairman of the Democratic Front, the regime's mass organization headed by the widow of former leader Enver Hoxha, Ismail Kadare actively participated in the spring and at the beginning of the summer, along with other Albanian intellectuals, in an offensive of party reformers against conservatives, in particular, in a very notable interview in the Writers Union weekly, DRITA. He is leaving his country at a time when, according to foreign observers on assignment in Tirana, the communist regime is confronted with a population which is more and more frustrated and less and less intimidated.

Kapllani To Meet UK Representatives Again

AU0811173490 Tirana ATA in English 0903 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tirana [place as received], November 7 (ATA)—The ATA correspondent learned that talks were conducted between the representatives of the Albanian Government and those of the British Government in Rome on November 5-6. During the talks, which passed in a positive atmosphere, they treated of bilateral problems, including also the question of restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Albanian delegation was headed by the foreign deputy minister, Muhamet Kapllani, whereas the British delegation by the under-secretary of state, Michael Tait.

According to the non-official reports, the representatives of both countries will meet again later.

Kapllani Meets Italy's Vitalone in Rome

AU0811174990 Tirana ATA in English 0907 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tirana [place as received], November 7 (ATA)—The Albanian Foreign Deputy Minister Muhamet Kapllani, who is in Rome, had a meeting with the Italian foreign deputy minister, Claudio Vitalone on November 6.

During the meeting they had a friendly talk, where they treated of problems of bilateral relations, exchanged opinions on the present European processes and dwelt on the Balkan cooperation and other regional initiatives.

Journalists Visit USSR at Invitation of TASS

AU1211140890 Tirana ATA in English 0940 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Tirana, November 12 (ATA) The newspaper "BASHKIMI" carries travel notes written by journalist Artur Lazebeu, member of a delegation of journalists that visited the Soviet Union recently at the invitation of the Soviet news agency TASS and of the review "NOVOYE VREMYA." It says among others:

Historically the peoples have exchanged messages of friendship with one another. The past generations have left something to the following generations. We would call our visit to the Soviet Union as a link between the two generations.

This great country is engaged in solving equally major problems. The preoccupation to find outlets finds its expression everywhere: both in the words of the rank and file, and of the higher officials we met with. Nevertheless, the common denominator of all this worry is the belief that the Soviet Union, with all that precious culture of its peoples, with all that intellectual-scientific potential that contributes to the country, with all those ground and underground riches, will attain its targets. It is a fact that no state is deprived of problems and worries. This makes even more logical the necessity of cooperation, in conformity with the new circumstances created in Europe.

It is natural to rejoice while the people we talked to used to say: "We wholeheartedly hail Albania's realist stand concerning the contemporary processes. Albania strives to tune up its voice in the European unison".

"We wish to expand the relations with Albania in all possible fields to the benefit of the two countries," the vice-president of the Journalists' Union of the USSR, Zubkov, said. After making an expose of the Soviet reality, the general vice-president of "Gosteleradio," Plevako, voiced the confidence that both the Soviet and Albanian sides will make efforts to continue further the traditions of relations between the two countries.

The vice-minister of culture of the USSR, Khilchevskiy, after extending a cordial reception to us, said: Your people are an ancient people inheriting a great art." We might examine jointly with the Albanian colleagues the cooperation in the field of culture, he said, and spoke to us on the various Soviet troupes that cultivated the folk music and songs, of their tours at home and abroad. The bilateral desire is making its way, he emphasized.

With the impressions form these warm meetings, the newspaper "BASHKIMI" stresses, we went also to the Soviet-Albanian Friendship Society, where people of different ages and professions, who devoted a part of their daily activity to the conservation and strengthening of friendship between our peoples, had gathered. The chairwoman of this association, Nina Smirnova, newly returned from Albania, expressed her impressions, warm sentiments by the Albanians and at the same time reaffirmed her commitment on behalf of the association in an even more fruitful activity to the benefit of the strengthening of friendship between our peoples.

Concluding his travel impressions from the Soviet Union issued in the newspaper "BASHKIMI," the author says: Our last greeting towards our hosts was: See you again?

Malile Leaves for Coronation of Japanese Emperor

AU0911195890 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Albanian Foreign Minister Reis Malile has left for Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Government to attend the coronation of Akihito, emperor of Japan.

Alia Sends Message to Akihito

AU1211203190 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade Ramiz Alia, president of the Presidium of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, has sent the following greetings telegram to Japanese Emperor Akihito: It is a pleasure for me, on the occasion of Your Majesty's enthronement as emperor of Japan, to send my sincere greetings and best wishes for your personal happiness and the prosperity of the Japanese people. I express the conviction that the friendly relations of cooperation between Albania and Japan will continue.

Scientific Agreement Signed With DPRK

AU0911200090 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] The protocol of the 18th session for scientific and technical cooperation between the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] was signed in Pyongyang recently.

The protocol was signed for the Albanian side by Ismail Djaloshi, Albanian ambassador in Pyongyang, and for the Korean side by Kim Ung-ho, deputy chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee.

The protocol for 1991-1992 plans for exchanges in the fields of agriculture, light industry, and the food industry.

Speculation on BSP Leadership Changes Continues

AU0911155490 Sofia BTA in English 1455 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 9 Nov (BTA)—None of the top people in the [Bulgarian] Socialist Party [BSP] would say what exactly is going on in the BSP Supreme Council and what decisions may be taken by its plenary meeting which will continue on Monday [12 November] and which "discusses the situation in the country and in the party."

The expected major personnel changes could change the cabinet crisis situation, according to predictions from left and right. Mr. Filip Bokov said that not one but several resignations were under discussion but there was no result yet. Asked whether there will be a congress (a new party leader can only be elected by a congress) he refused to commit himself.

It will be a different story if Mr. Lilov himself hands in his resignation. According to lobby talk, he is under pressure to do so but shows resistance.

Mr. Tomov told the BTA that some high-ranking party functionaries have offered to resign. Without naming names, he described it as "rather a gesture on the part of some of our colleagues." "There is no longer venerable careerism," Mr. Tomov believes. "You know," he said, "that Mr. Stanko Todorov has retired. There are other processes, too, in the Socialists' parliamentary faction," Mr. Tomov said. He finds that in this way his predictions that the BSP would purge itself of those who have discredited it are proved right.

An inquiry with parliament's Secretarial Department revealed that neither Mr. Todorov, a former chairman of the National Assembly and a member of the leadership of the former Communist Party, nor any other Socialist MP have formally resigned their seats.

More Socialists Expected To Join Consensus Group

AU0911160590 Sofia BTA in English 1325 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 9 Nov (BTA)—Today 16 national representatives declared in parliament their decision to form a separate parliamentary group in the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], called "national representatives for national consensus." They proclaimed they would vote with their consciousness and support a government formed with the participation of the different parliamentary forces which would be capable to speed up the reform.

Mr. Veselin Pavlov, former transport minister and member of the new parliamentary group, told a BTA reporter that other Socialists were also willing to join the group and that it was expected to become 30 or 40 people strong.

A BSP MP reproached his colleagues and said that they should at least have notified the BSP leadership of their decision.

There is no split in the BSP, this is merely a parliamentary group similar to those within the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) [SDS], the spokeslady for the BSP parliamentarian group, Ms. Elena Poptodorova, said in the lobbies.

According to a UDF MP there will be a new majority in parliament very soon, which will make it possible for the united opposition to move for a vote of confidence or no-confidence in the present government in the hope that the majority will back up the idea of a new cabinet. Now the contention between the BSP and the UDF is about the prime ministership.

Nonparty Members' Union Calls For SDS Government

AU0811203490 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Assessing the critical situation in Bulgaria, evident in the growing parliamentary crisis, the danger of slowing down the transition to market economy, and unrelenting political polarization, the Union of Nonparty Members Issued an appeal to the political forces, the text of which was received by the BTA.

The document points out that in the interest of the country and the tranquility of the citizens the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] must as soon as possible assess its political position and review its political position, as a result of which Andrey Lukanov's government should resign.

It is emphasized that the Union of Democratic Forces must immediately be entrusted with the task of forming a broad-based coalition government.

The new government's economic reform program must be specific, precise, and clear, with fixed timetable and stages, and published in the mass media.

In connection with this program the Grand National Assembly must quickly review and adopt the necessary laws.

The Union of Nonparty Members expresses the opinion that at present the BSP politicians must demonstrate to the people and the world that they also are responsible statesmen.

Speculation Over Possible New Government Noted

AU0911073090 Sofia BTA in English 2228 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 8 Nov (BTA)—"Communism is going away," Dr. Petur Beron, leader of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) [SDS], said by way of hello to the bartender in the parliamentary refreshment bar, citing a line from a song which is very popular in Bulgaria. "Communism never came here," the lady replied. It did not become clear whether Dr. Beron had in mind the consultations held by the political forces represented in parliament. The consultations are going on, an adviser of the president said. Maybe by Saturday

[10 November] it will become known what government Bulgaria would be ruled by and what program it would carry out.

The Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), which has parliamentary majority, proposed a coalition, but it insists on keeping the post of prime minister for itself; the UDF declared they can form a government dominated by itself.

It seems that there has not been any considerable change in the position of the BSP and the UDF on this issue, but according to a member of the BSP parliamentary group who holds a high ranking post in the party it can be expected that "a mutually acceptable solution may be found, which in actual fact would be more acceptable for one of the sides". The BSP obviously considers that it can rely on the support of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, judging by the change in the behavior of the latter. The leadership of this trade union organization, which until recently was a formal one, promised to back up a UDF-dominated government, but yesterday it break off its relations with the other strongest organization the Podkrepa Labor Confederation, which has the status of observer in the UDF. Mr. Andrey Lukanov's government also sharply criticized the Podkrepa Confederation and declared it would not abide the agreements that had been reached with it.

The government has met the demands of the strikers at the Petrochemical Works in Burgas and the workers retracted their demand for its resignation. It took a firm stand as to the students' strike. Today the UDF had a sitting to determine its attitude towards the students' strike, but the decision has not been announced. The members of the UDF leadership let it be understood that approval of the students' demands prevailed (one of the students' demands is for the resignation of the present government), but that the form of their protest the sit-in strikes in the universities is disapproved. President Zhelyu Zhelev's position on the problem is similar.

Bulgaria's president was to leave for Japan at the end of the week, but it became clear that he might postpone his trip because of "the situation in the country". This has not been officially announced yet.

Premier Andrey Lukanov is in Paris today, but there is some talk that he is expected at today's session of the BSP leadership. There are persistent reports that Aleksandur Lilov will be replaced by young Aleksandur Tomov, who ran for the post at the BSP congress held in the end of September this year. The possibility of his taking the post is interpreted as a sign of Andrey Lukanov's growing influence in the party.

Today the national representatives of the different parliamentary groups are not loquacious in releasing information and it seems that only few have some knowledge about the consultations between the BSP and the UDF. Those initiated are few and this fact evokes a feeling in the MP's that once more a minority will be taking the decisions for all of them. Today the Bulgarian parliament passed a declaration condemning the act of terrorism in Shumen of October 25 when a bomb blew up the club of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms there. The MP's discussed the regulations for parliamentary work and debated the amendments to the Bulgarian Citizens' Names Act.

The radicals in the BSP parliamentary group, ten of whom stated on television last night that they would act independently of the faction of their party, today did not broach the subject in parliament. Rumors report their number to be now ten, now fifteen or even twenty-seven.

BSP-SDS Political Consultations Reported 8 Nov

AU0811203390 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] A meeting of representatives of the leaderships of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] and the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] took place on 8 November. The following persons took part in the talks on behalf of the BSP: Aleksandur Lilov, Aleksandur Tomov, Chavdar Kyuranov, and Lyubomir Kyuchukov.

The following persons took part in the talks on behalf of the SDS: Petur Beron, Milan Drenchev, Petur Dertliev, Stefan Savov, Aleksandur Karakachanov, Petko Simeonov, Stoyan Ganev, Aleksandur Yordanov, and Ilko Eskanazi.

The representatives of the two political forces briefed each other on their positions on certain topical issues of the political situation in the country.

Zhelev Calls Talks for 9 Nov

AU0911160290 Sofia BTA in English 1330 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 9 Nov (BTA)—The president has scheduled consultations between the major political forces for this evening, the presidential spokesman Mr. Valentin Stoyanov told the press.

So far Dr. Zhelev has only met separately with the representatives of the political forces. Last night they held their first face-to-face meeting. This week the president conferred several times with Prime Minister Mr. Andrey Lukanov. They discussed the formation of a new government, as the one in office evidently does not function well, Mr. Stoyanov said.

"I don't see anything dramatic in the situation," said Mr. Ivaylo Trifonov, chief of the Office of the President. "Bulgaria has a legitimate government and no censure vote has been passed on it yet. If Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov does not want to head a government without a parliamentary consensus, this is his own business. If he expresses his unwillingness, the president will intervene only then."

"President Zhelev will not postpone his visit to Japan," his spokesman said. Dr Zhelev is leaving on a four-day working visit to Japan tomorrow. The Bulgarian president will attend the emperor's coronation ceremony. He is to meet the Japanese prime minister, members of the Diet, the minister of international trade and industry, businessmen and cultural figures.

"On his way to Japan, the president will meet in Moscow with a high-ranking state official," Mr. Trifonov said without naming him.

Today the president submitted to parliament a bill that would rescind a 1984 State Council decree which is classified and has never been published. Under the decree, the members of the nomenklatura are entitled to preferential treatment when they retire on pension and get higher pensions. The list of beneficiaries ranges from members of the upper echelon of power to leaders of cultural unions.

Lukanov Pessimistic About Consultations

AU0911200790 Sofia BTA in English 1728 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 9 Nov (BTA)—Neither the opposition leaders nor the prime minister are optimistic about the consultations called tonight by the President Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev.

This afternoon Mr. Lukanov conferred with the leaders of parties and organizations affiliated to the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS).

"Nothing new will happen," Mr. Petko Simeonov, one of the opposition leaders, told the BTA. "Everything is as it was and will hardly change," he believes.

The Prime Minister Mr. Andrey Lukanov confirmed to the press that by the end of this week the political forces will evidently be unable to find a way out of the cabinet situation. Tonight they will hold consultations with the president.

For the time being the BSP (Bulgarian Socialist Party) does not give up the prime ministership irrespective of the type of government, Mr. Andrey Lukanov said. He emphasized that this does not imply that he himself will keep the job.

Asked whether he would resign, the prime minister explained that he will take his personal decision after the political forces complete their consultations.

The prime minister is not an optimist about the results expected this evening from the meeting between the president and the leaders of the political forces. "Psychological tension has built up and the consultations so far have not eased it," Mr. Lukanov told the press in the afternoon today.

The prime minister does not think the present situation is a cabinet crisis in the conventional sense. He believes it is rather a stalemate.

"I don't think the opposition is unprepared for any compromise," Mr. Lukanov said. "The opposition is inclined to consider various alternatives." The prime minister, however, cannot say how far the opposition would be prepared to go.

Mr. Lukanov was non-committal when asked whether he would give up his party membership as some sort of compromise with the opposition. "This matter has not been raised," he said.

Party Leaders Consult With Zhelev

AU0911212090 Sofia BTA in English 1943 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 9 Nov (BTA)—This evening the major political forces began consultations under the auspices of Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic.

The consultations, the participants in which will probably discuss the government situation, are attended by Mr. Aleksandur Lilov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the ruling Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), and by Mr. Aleksandur Tomov, deputy chairman of the BSP Supreme Council.

The opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) is represented by Mr. Petur Beron, chairman of the SDS Coordinating Council, and by leaders of SDS-affiliated parties and movements. The consultations are held in the conspicuous absence of Dr. Petur Dertliev, chairman of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, and of Mr. Milan Drenchev, the leader of the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party, who publicly declared themselves against a coalition with the Bulgarian Socialist Party in any form whatsoever. The leaders of these two largest SDS parties are known here as hard-line opponents of any coalition with the Socialists.

The Bulgarian Agrarian party (BZNS) is represented at the consultations by its chairman, Mr. Viktor Vulkov.

The Movement for Rights and Freedoms, led by Mr. Ahmed Dogan, has no representative at the consultations.

Degree of Consensus Reached

AU1011152490 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Interview with chief of the President's Office Ivaylo Trifonov and presidential spokesman Valentin Stoyanov by reporter Yasen Indzhev at Sofia airport on 10 November—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer Chavdar Stefanov] Half an hour ago, President Zhelyu Zhelev departed from Sofia on a regular Aeroflot flight via Moscow for Tokyo, in order to take part in the official coronation ceremony of Emperor Akihito. President Zhelev is also expected to have a number of meetings in Japan. Our reporter Yasen Indzhev used the opportunity offered by the fact that the president's official delegation included Mr. Ivaylo Trifonov, chief of the President's Office, and the president's spokesman Mr. Valentin Stoyanov, to ask them for more details about the talks which ended last night with representatives of the main political forces.

[Indzhev] I am using this opportunity, before the president's delegation departs Sofia airport, to learn more details about the consultations between the political forces which ended late last night under the chairmanship of the president of the Republic. Mr. Trifonov, what conclusion did they reach in their overall viewpoint?

[Trifonov] I would not describe last night's meetings as consultations; I would say rather that they were frank, completely open talks on the problems now facing the country. First the meeting discussed the president's departure to take part in the official coronation ceremony of the Japanese emperor and a number of meetings that he plans to have there—I mean working meetings, of course. However, the main issues on the agenda were the work of the government, the state of the parliament's work, and the further development of the political situation in the country. The sides reached a unanimous view that all the political forces represented in parliament would work very hard to implement the legislative program already adopted by parliament for the period until the end of this year, which will ensure the transition to a market economy and further democratization in the country.

The prime minister assumed a commitment to take the most necessary measures next week, primarily for removing the monopolies of certain main branches of industry which produce products of vital importance for the population. These mainly relate to food products; that is, it is intended to remove the monopoly privileges of Rodopa, the dairy industry, Vinprom, and certain other large monopolies. This will create conditions for competition in the production, purchasing, and sale of products which are essential for the population.

In addition, agreement was reached that next week parliament will adopt the draft budget submitted by the government for the remaining two months of the year.

The political forces also agreed to continue to conduct talks and consultations on the work of the government and on improving this work, but the question of forming a new government at this moment did not arise. Everyone agreed unanimously that a government elected by parliament already exists, and this government should start to function as soon as possible.

[Indzhev] Mr. Stoyanov, this may have been the viewpoint of the political forces which took part in last night's talks, but at the same time in Sofia and many other places elsewhere in the country many calls are being made for the resignation of the government. Is there any information on the views taken by the political forces on these calls by their supporters?

[Stoyanov] As Mr. Trifonov has already told you, the issue of the present government's resignation was not raised at the meeting last night. The government has been legally elected and should start to work more actively.

With regard to the individual political forces, it should be added that last night they displayed exceptional mutual understanding concerning the relevant problems of their political opponents. As far as the opposition is concerned, they stated that they will assist in fulfilling Lukanov's program with regard to those elements which are fateful for Bulgaria and will act as a constructive parliamentary opposition in relation to those elements of the program which they do not regard as good for the present moment.

The ruling party, which holds the majority in parliament, also showed understanding in relation to the opposition's position and agreed that it is necessary to work together in order to escape from the present crisis.

[Indzhev] How did they regard the splitting off of certain members of the parliamentary group of the Bulgarian Socialist Party to form a separate faction? May it not be considered that this has to a certain extent broken the monopoly enjoyed by the majority party in the Grand National Assembly?

[Stoyanov] This issue was also discussed as one possible alternative to the present situation, namely a possible restructuring in parliament leading to the formation of a new majority in parliament. However, this process is only at its beginning, and we can say nothing definite about how it will develop. However, in general, the matter was not discussed as a dramatic issue, but was nonetheless viewed as a possibility for a future restructuring of parliament.

BSP, Opposition Figures Hold TV Debate on Government

AU1011210390 Sofia BTA in English 1948 GMT 10 Nov 90

["Political Forces Recognize Legitimacy of One-Party Government but Do Not Rule Out Changes in It"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 10 Nov (BTA)—In an interview aired on national television this evening, Mr. Aleksandur Tomov, one of the leaders of the ruling Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), and Mr. Stoyan Ganev, spokesman for the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), confirmed that at last night's consultations the political forces were unanimous that the country has a legitimate government.

"However, I would rather call it a 'government of inaction,'" Mr. Ganev said and added that Prime Minister Lukanov last night himself acknowledged that his one-party government is not in a position to control the apparat and the existing structures.

Mr. Aleksandur Tomov said a new government is out of the question but, if necessary, the cabinet may be reshuffled or a new one may formed. This can only be a coalition or a project-team government. Once again invoking the Socialists' majority in parliament, Mr. Tomov said that the BSP was not inclined to give up the premiership.

The SDS spokesman emphasized that the opposition will not form a coalition with the BSP but the parliamentary majority was in a flux and, in the case of a realignment, a new government dominated by the SDS may be formed eventually. The two largest SDS-affiliated parties, the Social Democrats and the Nikola Petkov Agrarians, flatly refuse to join the Socialists in any government.

Mr. Tomov and Mr. Ganev agreed that parliament must urgently pass major legislation: the laws on land and on privatization and a trade law, so that the economic reform could get off the ground.

Zhelev Says BSP Should Dominate Government

AU1111202990 Sofia BTA in English 1858 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 11 Nov (BTA)—"The anxiety of these one hundred days did not come as a surprise to me," said Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic, in an interview aired on Bulgarian Television this evening in connection with the first one hundred days of his term.

The interview was recorded on November 9, before the president left for Japan. Dr. Zhelev was elected to the Presidency by parliament on August 1, 1990.

The president said that tensions in this country have been running high for months due to the political crisis. Still, Dr. Zhelev is an optimist. He believes that the peaceful transition to democracy will continue.

The government is the most vulnerable element in the whole system of state power, and all the scrambling for the formation of a new cabinet arises from the existing crisis, Dr. Zhelev believes. He is convinced that Bulgaria needs a strong government backed by parliament and that this should be either a coalition or a project-team government as a form of coalition which would not engage the political forces directly. "A one-party government of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] or the Union of Democratic Forces is not in a position to run the country," Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev said.

As far as he is concerned, the government should be dominated by the Socialist Party. "If the opposition was a little bit smarter, it would have gone along with this for the sake of historical justice: the government should launch the inevitable unpopular measures, and once the BSP is to blame for the current state of affairs, it should take the responsibility and the consequences," the president said. He emphasized, however, that it is already unlikely that agreement on such a government could be reached. The unrest, especially among young people and the students, will hardly allow the formation of a Socialist-dominated government, but that was a matter of arrangement between the political forces.

"This is the first time that Bulgaria has a chance to seek its security guarantees on a continental scale, through integration into all European structures rather than as a satellite of some of the great powers," the president indicated. He assessed his visits to the United States and France as a success. The orientation to the United States does not imply a search for patronage from a great power but rather a search of aid from a country of leading importance in the world," the president said in reply to some critics. Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev pointed out that the presidential institution also take credit for the shift of priorities in Bulgaria's foreign policy. He said that in connection with these new priorities, new ambassadors will be appointed to the crucial countries.

On the president's initiative, parliament has passed several laws during those one hundred days: an act depoliticizing the Army, the police, the law courts, the Prosecutor's Office and the diplomatic service, an act creating a Foreign Aid Agency and an act establishing interim municipal administrations. The decision to send Bulgarian volunteers to the Persian Gulf was also an idea of the president.

Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev has also abolished some privileges of the higher echelon of power. He himself waived the right to special supply, to a house maid, and to living at a residence to which he was entitled as head of state. One third of his salary of 1,800 leva a month goes to an orphans charity fund. Just as before the president lives in his small flat together with his wife and two daughters.

3 Nov Antigovernment Rally in Sofia Reported

AU0911200590 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 3 Nov 90 p 2

[Sonya Stoyanova report: "Khristofor Subev Preaches in Democracy Square"]

[Excerpts] Father Khristofor Subev opened his sermon at yesterday's vigil in Sofia's Democracy Square with the following statement: "Brothers and sisters, at this moment in our lives we are shaking off the poisonous fungus of the totalitarian regime, we are getting rid of the rotten Communist system, we are getting rid of all those who proved through their actions that they were only serving their own selfish goals." He called for silence and a prayer for reconciliation.

Khristofor Subev expressed his deep concern about the tragic situation which Bulgaria is facing, about the irresponsible attitude of leaders who are most unscrupulously trying to obstruct the progress of democracy to exhaust the strength of the opposition. He said: "The crisis is escalating. The long vigils which people are forced to hold in front of the stores, without the comfort of candlelight, and the endless lines increasingly evoke their discontent. People are asking: Why should our children suffer? All these difficulties are the results of the former regime's delusions. People are also asking themselves: What kind of nation are we? Should our country be compared with Romania and Albania? How long should we listen to lies and hypocrisy? We are apparently facing a terrible threat—the resignation of an elitist one-party government." An old tested recipe is now applied against the opposition, he explained. He compared the tactics of the ruling Socialists applied against the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] to the struggle of the Roman Empire against the brilliant commander Hannibal Barca who crossed the Alps and was ready to descend on Rome, but was stopped by Fabius, called Cunctator, a Roman warlord, who chased him around all over Italy trying to exhaust the strength of his army and subsequently to destroy him. This is exactly the method which the opponents of the SDS apply against opposition, Father Subev pointed out.

The participants in the vigil observed a one-minute silence kneeling to express their reverence for the victims of the totalitarian regime.

The vigil ended with a moving performance of the Christian Salvation Union's church choir. The audience left inspired by the hope and confidence that the culprits shall not escape God's justice.

Oppositionists Jeer at BSP Rally Marking 10 Nov

AU1011154290 Sofia BTA in English 1431 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 10 Nov (BTA)—Tens of thousands of Socialists and BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] supporters flocked to a rally in Sofia's central square to mark the first anniversary of Todor Zhivkov's ouster on November 10, 1989. They carried placards reading "Onward, Andrey, no more resignations," "No to strikes and riots," "Mr. Trenchev, stop irresponsibility and extremism," "Capitalism? No! Socialism? Yes!" An onlooking group of supporters of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) was chanting "BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] is Mafia" and "Resignation." The police tried to remove them from the Socialists' rally but their chants could be heard all the time. One of the speakers said that the two groups had clashed and a senior citizen, a member of the BSP, had been injured in the incident. The multitude in the square reacted to the news by chanting "Assassins" and "Fascists" to the blue banner-carrying group.

Among others, Prime Minister Mr. Andrey Lukanov, the Socialists' leader Mr. Aleksandur Lilov, and the party's deputy chairman and Mr. Lilov's likely successor, Mr. Aleksandur Tomov, addressed the rally.

"The change continues," Mr. Lukanov told his audience. He was cheered with repeated chants of "Lukanov" and "No resignation." "Blue guards, blue storm troopers, you are the real illustration of what would befall Bulgaria if hooligans and thugs come to power," he said, addressing the opposition supporters chanting "Resignation." The prime minister emphasized that everybody who had struggled against the totalitarian regime share the credit for November 10, 1989. "Whatever sets us apart today, let us not forget what brought us together," Mr. Lukanov appealed.

Almost all speakers called for a Socialists' offensive in the name of democracy, against violence, against neo-fascism.

The BSP leader Mr. Aleksandur Lilov emphasized that now the Socialists need three things: unity in the party and its leadership, unswerving commitment to the road of change and of democracy, and to take the offensive.

Students Avoid Clash After Rally

AU1111145190 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Following the 10 November rally of the Bulgarian Socialist Party a group of people who participated in the rally tried to provoke the striking students at Sofia's St. Kliment Okhridski University.

There was a clash at the university's entrance, however, the striking students did not take part. The law and order forces intervened and put an end to the incident.

The Strike Committee of Sofia University states that the students' strike is a peaceful one, and that the students will not succumb to acts of provocation from the street, acts aimed at turning the public against the students.

Ganev Addresses SDS 10 Nov Rally in Plovdiv

AU1011165990 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] This afternoon in Plovdiv a rally took place, organized by the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] to commemorate the 10 November anniversary under the motto: Let us support democracy. Speakers at the rally included Deputies of the Grand National Assembly Stoyan Ganev, Andrey Andreev, and Prof. Aleksandur Yanchulev; [name indistinct], spokesman of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation; and representatives of the striking students from Plovdiv's higher education establishments. [passage indistinct]

All the speeches emphasized that the SDS does not want a coalition government with the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP].

In his speech, Mr. Stoyan Ganev stated that dissatisfaction with the present government is still increasing, and that the government must start acting; if it is unable to do this, then it must acknowledge this and go. He also acquainted the audience with the subjects discussed at the talks held yesterday between President Zhelyu Zhelev and representatives of the political forces on the country's future during the coming days and weeks.

The speakers also expressed support for the striking students of Plovdiv's higher educational establishments.

At the initiative of the Friends of America Intellectuals' Club, a thanksgiving service was held in the Saint Kiril and Metodiy Church in Plovdiv in commemoration of 10 November 1989.

A rally to mark the festive anniversary was organized in Union Square in Plovdiv by the Plovdiv Municipal BSP Council. In his speech, Petko Tsarev, the council's chairman, pointed out that the process of democratization in Bulgaria is unthinkable without the participation of the BSP. Signatures were collected at the rally for a petition in support of Andrey Lukanov's government.

Leading Figures Interviewed on 10 Nov Anniversay

AU1011154490 Sofia BTA in English 1357 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 10 Nov (BTA)—One year ago Todor Zhivkov, who had been running this country for more than 30 years, was deposed. "November 10 is a watershed in Bulgaria's contemporary political history," writes the Socialists' daily "DUMA" in this connection. According to the opposition daily "DEMOKRATSIYA," it is already quite certain that there was no coup on November 10, 1989, and that Zhivkov's resignation was absolutely voluntary without involving any risk to anyone in his entourage.

"OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK" has interviewed leaders of the political parties and movements represented in parliament on the benefits of November 10. Mr. Aleksandur Lilov, chairman of the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], believes that November 10 objectively started the transition from a totalitarian to a democratic society. According to the opposition leader, Mr. Petur Beron, that day must have come in the context of all events unfolding in Eastern Europe a year ago. Mr. Viktor Vulkov, the leader of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS), finds that the events which started in November (he does not specify the date) 1989 in Bulgaria were quite complicated, deep-going and contradictory, but still played a positive role in the development of the country.

In an interview for "OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK" General Dobri Dzhurov, minister of national defence on November 10, is positive that there were no military preparations in connection with the plenum at which Mr. Zhivkov was replaced as leader of the BSP. The general says it is too early to make public all details surrounding the events a year ago.

Sofia Student Protest Against Government Reported

AU0911220590 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Summary from poor reception] Students and teachers from the Sofia Saint Kliment Okrhidski University organized a rally in Sofia tonight at which citizens joined and supported the students' demands. According to the students and teachers this rally is a confirmation of the broad public support for these demands.

The demonstrators marched through the streets of the city center shouting slogans against the Andrey Lukanov government and the Bulgarian Socialist Party. Passing through the [name indistinct] avenue which was in total darkness because of the power cuts, the participants shouted: We do not want darkness, we want electric power, we are hungry.

On the square in front of the president's office numerous people joined the demonstrators.

Protest Spreads to 28 Institutions

AU1011210590 Sofia BTA in English 2020 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 10 Nov (BTA)—Twenty-eight institutes of higher learning are on strike, and the strike is expected to spread to over 90 per cent of all colleges in the country in the coming days, a representative of the students strike committee said in a televised interview this evening.

The wave of students protests started on Monday [5 November] when a sit-in was staged in Sofia University. The strikers want the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] property to be nationalized, those to blame for the catastrophe to be called to account and the incumbent government to resign.

In a declaration today the sitters-in at Sofia University reiterated that their strike is a separate form of protest and that they are independent of any political force. They are decided to keep up the occupation even after a possible change of government until their demands are met.

"We believe that the attempts of certain forces to transform and reduce the culmination of our actions to pressure from the street for a resignation of the government are improper and short-sighted," the university sitters-in say.

Over the week the SDS-affiliated Federation of Independent Students Societies, which opposes the strike as a form of protest, called on all students for active strike protests and street action.

This evening the students of the Academy of Theatre and Film Art staged a procession in Sofia's central square to press the deadline which they gave Mr. Lukanov's government to resign.

Medical Students End Strike

AU0911155190 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Report on declaration of Sofia Saint Kliment Okhridski University Academic Council, read by Deputy Rector Panayot Bochev; place and date not given]

[Text] [Begin Bochev recording] First, the Academic Council of the Sofia Saint Kliment Okrhidski University is convinced that the civil, social, and professional demands of the students on strike are their legitimate right and the council supports their demands by urging the competent organs to satisfy the students' demands.

Second, the Academic Council is convinced that the forms and means of social protest should be selected by the students and teachers in accordance with the laws.

Third, the Academic Council believes that prompt and acceptable solutions should be sought in a friendly dialogue between the university leadership and the students' organizations leaderships, solutions likely to satisfy the students professional demands and to contribute to the normalization of university life and to resuming the lectures. [end recording].

The students of the Sofia Medical Academy in Sofia who continue to insist on their demands, nevertheless, decided at a joint meeting today that their strike should cease to be a sit-in. This is required by the changes in the political situation and by the necessity of averting the country's destabilization and of contributing to a closer cohesion of democratic forces, the students from the Medical Academy announce in their appeal to the mass media.

Strike Will Continue Until Demands Met

AU1111192990 Sofia BTA in English 1819 GMT 11 Nov 90

["Students Strike Committees Will Choose Form of Protest Independently"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 11 Nov (BTA)—"The specific circumstances will determine the specific form": a sit-in or a political strike, protest actions inside or outside the campuses, according to a decision made by representatives of 24 institutes of higher learning on strike.

At a conference in Sofia they adopted an address to the Bulgarian people in which they analyze the grave crisis in the country.

"Our alarm was sounded in our memorandum, but it was not heard," the document says. "That is why we went on strike, to speed up and to safeguard the change. We hold categorically that the pressing major reforms can only be implemented by a new, radical and decisive government whose composition matches the changed social realities and needs. We view this not as an end in itself but merely as a prime condition for the vital social problems listed in the memorandum."

The students declare that the protests will continue even after the cabinet change "until the fulfillment of our demands begins or until we get at least reliable guarantees by the new government that they will be met within a defined short period of time."

They call for nationwide student strike actions and urge for "civic courage, political ethics and human reason."

The strike press center at the St. Kliment Okhridski University of Sofia, 2,789 members of the public, 1,956 students and 235 teachers have supported the action by noon tomorrow. Workforces in Sofia have also voiced their solidarity. The anti-strike sign-ins have gathered the signatures of 44 members of the public, 37 students and three teachers.

The strikers claim that they do not intend to interfere with the international events agreed upon before the sit-in was staged.

In connection with the expiration of the deadline set for a resignation of Mr. Andrey Lukanov's government in the ultimatum of the students of the Krustyu Sarafov Academy of Theater and Film Art, the latter have called on the citizens of Sofia to support their silent protest staged every evening at the central square in the capital city from 6 p.m.

Sofia City BSP Organization Reestablished

AU0711095590 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 5 Nov 90 pp 1, 2

[Evgeni Gavrilov report]

[Text] The constituent conference of the Sofia City organization of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] took place in Sofia on 4 November. The conference was convened at the suggestion of an initiative group consisting mainly of delegates who attended the 39th BSP Congress and of representatives of various ideological tendencies in the party.

In his report on the state of the BSP in Sofia and the forthcoming tasks of the Sofia Socialists, Manol Chobanov, chairman of the Kremikovtsi Municipal BSP Council, said: "Following the 14th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP], the Sofia City party organization entered a deep crisis."

The party lost the strategic initiative, and an uncontrollable process of disintegration developed in the party organizations. In practice, the party organization became leaderless.

According to the speaker, Georgi Grigorov and Stefan Savov, the leaders of the coordinating council established after the 14th BCP Congress, which united the municipal party organizations, bear the political responsibility for the present state of affairs. Also responsible is Rumen Serbezov, secretary of the former Supreme Party Council, who in fact imposed an illegitimate city leadership.

The coordinating council was criticized for its lack of political foresight, which was best reflected in the results of the last parliamentary elections in the Sofia constituencies. It was stated that in Sofia the BSP had in fact gone into the opposition.

Criticism was leveled against the Supreme Party Council for having failed to find a specific strategy and tactics for action following the elections, and because there still exists no mechanism for conveying its decisions to the primary party organizations.

One of the immediate tasks singled out was to purge the Sofia City BSP organization of discredited persons. A proposal was made to set up a special commission to resolve this issue within 10 to 15 days.

The delegates who participated in the heated debates which developed demanded a radical cadre renewal of the Sofia BSP organization. Opinions were expressed on the need to abandon the wait-and-see attitude, which will be catastrophic for the BSP if it is maintained in the future. According to those who spoke, the apparatus-type approach still prevails in the activities of the primary party organizations, which are making no efforts to win control of new political territory, and nothing is being done to attract young people and intellectuals.

Aleksandur Lilov, chairman of the BSP Supreme Council, did not agree with the assertion that the party has no strategy or tactics for action. He said that the strategy is to uncompromisingly dismantle the former type of socialism, while the tactics are to achieve this by peaceful means, in dialogue with all political forces. Lilov stated that the changes in the Sofia City BSP organization will serve as a barometer for the processes of change in the entire party. The BSP has the chance of keeping one step ahead of events.

He informed the participants in the conference that a plenum of the Supreme Party Council will be held this week, and that it will adopt important decisions on seeking personal accountability from those responsible for the country's present position and for the party's property.

"We have been exposed to strong external pressure," said Aleksandur Lilov. "The internal situation is also serious. Certain forces are doing everything possible to remove us not only from power, but also from the historical scene. They want to make us responsible for any eventual political crisis. However, the party is still strong, and we must not be afraid."

Aleksandr Tomov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Party Council and chief coordinator, announced that the whole of the party archives will be open. The archives contain specific names of people who will have to bear the political responsibility. However, the party has no right to judge them. The materials will be handed over to the prosecutor's office.

The conference elected a Sofia City BSP Council and Control Commission. It was proposed that the city council should have an executive bureau and three commissions: on political affairs, on organizational affairs, and on interrelations with the state organs and other political forces. It is also planned to set up a secretarial and finance department.

The conference also adopted a program of practical action by the Sofia City BSP organization and an appeal to the Socialists and BSP sympathizers in Sofia and throughout the country.

Health Minister Explains Grounds for Resignation

AU0811203890 Sofia BTA in English 1908 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 8 Nov (BTA)—As it has been already announced, Prof. Ivan Chernozemski, minister of public health, gave in his resignation. He stressed that the reasons for his resignation are not political, but purely professional.

"I took the ministerial post because I wished to contribute to the implementation of positive changes in health care. But I see that it is more and more difficult to carry out the changes, because they are hindered at different levels and by different groups. Despite the prevailing opinion that health care is in a tragic situation, the draft law that is to amend the public health act will not be discussed by the Grand National Assembly this year. The privilege of getting medicines free of charge has not been abolished, although we made a proposal to this effect. The funds granted by the banks for health care are becoming smaller and smaller," Prof. Chernozemski told a BTA reporter. The second motive for his resignation is the attempt to politicize health care. "The leadership of the ministry sought, and successfully I think, to relieve the sphere of health care from its subordination to political, party and group interests. But things have changed of late. Even in parliament. It has been mentioned in connection with the aid the country is receiving that the ministry was "illegitimate". What makes it illegitimate—the lack of qualification, professionalism, morality?"

"My third motive has to do with the possibility to solve health care problems in a professional way. The reform requires great professionalism, normal and methodical work, but the pressure is too great to withstand. The style of Todor Zhivkov's regime can still be felt. The professional prestige I have among my colleagues abroad is in danger," Prof. Chernozemski stated.

Medical Doctors' Union Calls For Health Reform

AU0911161790 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Declaration of the Bulgarian Medical Doctors Union, read by Doctor Ivan Ivanov, deputy chairman of the union; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] As you already know, the delay in the health protection reform was one of the major reasons for the recent resignation of Professor Ivan Chernozemski from his post as minister of public health. The Bulgarian Medical Doctors Union met with representatives of the Grand National Assembly and with (?other high ranking officials) and was assured that the amendment to the Law on Public Health can be expected to be passed by the end of the year. Let us hear a declaration read by Doctor Ivan Ivanov, deputy chairman of the Medical Doctors Union:

[Begin Ivanov recording] We think that the Bulgarian physician who is presently an employee of the state would make a much greater contribution to the protection of the Bulgarian people's health under the conditions of a reformed health protection system.

We are convinced that there is no effective health protection free of charge. Professor's Chernozemski's resignation actually represented a significant act accomplished by the head of the Bulgarian health services. As a physician he thus protested against the inadmissible delay in the health protection reform.

Tomorrow, Saturday, 10 November and on Sunday, 11 November, a delegates' conference of the Bulgarian Medical Doctors Union and of other associations is scheduled to discuss and adopt a decision on increasing the pace of health-care reform. We can already say that at this point we are ready for all actions to achieve this goal. [end recording]

[Announcer] By all actions we should understand possible strikes of medical personnel in the country. However, we will hear next Monday [12 November], what the doctors have decided at their conference.

Statistics Show Falling Production, Inflation

AU0911090490 Sofia BTA in English 0820 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 9 Nov (BTA)—According to the latest information released by the Central Board of Statistics the prices in the home market soared by 30 percent in the May-October period this year.

The basic foods are becoming ever more scarce, although larger quantities were supplied to the shops compared with the same period last year. The fuel necessary for heating in the coming winter is still in great shortage.

In the past ten months the total output amounts to 56.8 billion leva's worth, 42.9 billion leva of them being the value of industrial products. Compared with the same period last year the drop in production is 10.4 percent.

The main cause for the drop of production is the shortage of raw materials and feed stock.

From January to October the country exported goods to the tune of 7,177.7 million currency leva's worth. Exports decreased by 2,843.1 million currency leva's worth compared with the same period last year.

According to the data released by the Central Board of Statistics most of the profit made by the companies and the economic organizations goes to the state in the form of taxes. The enterprises get only 37.1 percent of their profits.

Market Economy Measures for Agriculture Adopted

AU0811204090 Sofia BTA in English 1853 GMT 8 Nov 90

["Market Determines Purchase Prices in Agriculture"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 8 Nov (BTA)—The government has adopted a decision according to which the purchase prices of basic agricultural products will be marketized. Until the transition to market prices of all goods is completed, the difference between the former and the new contractual purchase prices will be covered by the state budget.

The extras on purchase prices paid up to now from the budget to producers working in unfavorable conditions mainly in mountainous regions and hilly areas, will be preserved.

Opposition Wants To Implement U.S. Reform Plan

AU0811203990 Sofia BTA in English 1855 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 8 Nov (BTA)—Three opposition national representatives Iliya Tsekov of the Union of Democratic Forces, Ahmed Dogan of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms and Yanko Yankov of the Social Democratic Party (Non-Marxist) and another four Bulgarians economists and jurists by occupation, put forward the idea of forming a National Salvation Bloc.

They support the program worked out by the team of U.S. experts headed by Dr. Richard Rahn, vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The MP's consider that it should become a program of national consensus which the Bulgarian parliament must approve. It is their idea to bind the program to a necessary Bulgarian addendum which will make it operate in the specific Bulgarian conditions.

In an appeal addressed to the citizens of Bulgaria in the country and abroad the seven parliamentarians state that as a basis of the program of national consensus the Rahn program has no other reasonable alternative.

During the debates on the Lukanov program there were repeated appeals for carrying out the American program.

Up to now two out-of-parliament organizations have joined the appeal of the seven MP's: the Zveno People's Union and the Non-Party Members for Democracy Movement.

Pishev Replaces Velichkov as Ambassador to U.S.

AU0811212390 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2100 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] By a decree of the chairman of the Republic, Velichko Filipov Velichkov has been relieved from the post of Bulgarian ambassador to the United States. Ognyan Raychev Pishev has been appointed to this post.

DFLP Leader Hawatimah Pays 'Working Visit'

AU0611133690 Sofia BTA in English 1141 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Sofia, 6 Nov (BTA)—Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), paid a short working visit here.

At a session of talks with Mr. Lyubomir Kyuchukov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, the sides exchanged views on the political situation in the Middle East and in the Persian Gulf.

Comments on Intifadah, Gulf Crisis

AU0711154190 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 6 Nov 90 p 3

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, with Volodya Stratiev, in Sofia on 5 November: "The Palestinians Are Not the Architects of the Gulf Crisis"; first paragraph is DUMA introduction]

[Text] The more the pressure increases, the greater the danger of an explosion. This rule explains the present situation on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, in the opinion of Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who is paying a brief visit to Bulgaria. In his interview with DUMA, Hawatimah pointed out that Israel has been applying pressure to the Palestinians in the occupied lands for 23 years already.

[Stratiev] Can one speak of a new stage in the Palestinian uprising, following the recent severe clashes?

[Hawatimah] On 8 December the Intifadah entered its fourth year. This is a peaceful form of protest, in which about two million people are taking part, that is, practically all the Palestinians who live under occupation (not to mention the three million Palestinians scattered in other countries.)

The bloody events in Jerusalem and Gaza indicate the fact that the occupiers are helpless. I think that one can speak of a new stage in the Intifadah, a stage of mass popular participation. We oppose using arms in the occupied territories, because we do not want to provide grounds for the occupying forces to increase their repressions. We hope that international community will intensify the pressure upon Israel to fulfill the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

[Stratiev] Have the three years of the Intifadah—strikes, protests, and repressions—already exhausted the people of the occupied territories?

[Hawatimah] The people are much more exhausted by the occupation itself. For this reason, the uprising will continue.

[Stratiev] Do you have the feeling that the world has forgotten about the uprising?

[Hawatimah] No, this is not true. It is rather that the crisis in the Persian Gulf has cast a shadow over the uprising. Now, world public opinion sees the Palestinian problem through the prism of the Gulf Crisis. We believe that, despite the dangers, the present situation will give an impetus to the process of reaching a settlement of both crises.

[Stratiev] The opinion prevails among political observers that the linking of the Palestinian cause with the actions of Saddam Husayn places the Palestinians in an ambiguous position....

[Hawatimah] We are not the originators of the Gulf Crisis, nor are we its architects. It is a fait accompli, which has increased tension in the entire Arab world and the world as a whole. Francois Mitterrand suggested indirectly linking the two problems, of the Gulf and the Palestinians, and he made a call for fulfillment of all the resolutions issued by the Security Council on both conflicts.

[Stratiev] How do you forecast that the conflicts will develop in the course of time?

[Hawatimah] We are now at the stage of a race between the possible political and military solutions. We are striving for a reasonable compromise within an Arab framework, and we believe that the United States should assume a commitment to not use military force, while the Arabs negotiate to find a solution.

Lukanov in Paris for 'Plan and Market' Conference

AU0911072690 Sofia BTA in English 2237 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Paris, 8 Nov (BTA)—Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov paid a short visit to Paris today at the invitation of the French Government. While one out of two men in Bulgaria is expecting his resignation, he attended an international meeting devoted to the subject of "plan and market". Top ranking government representatives of Eastern Europe had discussions with the leaders of the most influential international organizations which undertook to help along the former socialist countries with their transition from a centrally planned to market economy.

The participants in meeting were received by President Francois Mitterrand.

Quota Set for Nationals Working in Germany

AU0911160990 Sofia BTA in English 1423 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Bonn, 9 Nov (BTA correspondent)—The Bulgarian Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare and the German Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs agreed that next year four thousand Bulgarian specialists and construction workers can work in Germany under contracts signed between companies of the two countries.

According to the agreement endorsed here today, two thousand specialists in different fields can work in Germany under contracts concluded in advance by the respective companies. Besides, two thousand construction workers will be able to work on building sites in Germany for a period of three years.

The agreement will be officially signed at the beginning of December, 1990 in Sofia.

Federal, National Governments Debate Power Sharing

Czech Cabinet Approves Bill

AU0911060190 Prague CTK in English 1621 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Prague Nov 7 (CTK)—The cabinet of the Czech Republic today approved a bill on the Czechoslovak federation, defining the powers of federal bodies and those of the two republics.

The bill was completed at Monday's meeting of the federal, Czech and Slovak premiers and was approved by the Slovak cabinet on Tuesday. The bill will now be presented to the Czech and Slovak parliaments and submitted to the Federal Assembly (parliament) by November 20 so that it may come into effect by January 1, 1991.

Federal Premier Marian Calfa said in an interview for today's LIDOVE NOVINY daily that the federation's powers will cover decisions on economic strategy, the taxes system, armed forces, foreign policy, fuels, energy, and raw materials.

Referring to the bill defining the powers of federal and republic bodies at a press conference today, Czech Deputy Premier Frantisek Vlasak explained that the bill provides for the independence of budgets of the federation and the republics, and introduces the principle under which the republics will contribute to the needs of the federal budget in proportion to their population numbers.

Vlasak stated that the State Bank of Czechoslovakia will be the central bank, pursuing a single monetary policy, with central banks in the Czech and Slovak Republics being a part of it.

The republics will carry out their foreign trade activities independently but railway transport would come under federal control at least until the end of next year, as well as customs legislation, foreign policy and defense.

Vlasak said that the sphere of the press, radio, and television, and the anti-monopoly law will be covered by independent laws. The bill will be discussed by the Federal Government tomorrow.

Federal Government Voices Agreement

LD0911090590 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0800 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Last night the Federal Government voiced its agreement in principle with the general conception of the constitutional bill on the Czechoslovak federation, which amends the system of power sharing between the federation and the republics. Some provisions of this draft are still to be added to and discussed. A meeting between political and state representatives of the federation and the two republics will therefore be held in Modra, near Bratislava, this Saturday and Sunday [10-11 November].

Everything indicates that the session of the Federal Government was complicated. The evidence of this is the return of Premier Marian Calfa from a working visit to eastern Slovakia, and he will fly back there again first thing in the morning.

During its evening session the Federal Government instructed the minister of foreign affairs to use all available means to speed up the return of our 46 citizens held in Iraq to their homeland.

Calfa Recounts Talks on Constitution

LD0911150690 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1100 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Interview with Premier Marian Calfa by correspondent Jaroslav Vilik on 8 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The first information from yesterday's talks by the Federal Government indicated that if the amendment of the constitutional law on the Czechoslovak Federation is not adopted, it could create a deep political crisis and a shock which would be difficult for us to get over.

Federal Premier Marian Calfa therefore immediately interrupted his stay in eastern Slovakia to take part in the ongoing session of the cabinet of the Federal Government. It seems to have been successful, because CTK informed us this morning that the government of the CSFR after all agreed with the overall concept of the proposed new policy. Marian Calfa, therefore, was able to return again to Kosice for the third and final day of his working visit in the East Slovak region.

Our reporter Jaroslav Vilik asked him about the details of yesterday's events in Cernin Palace:

[Calfa] The situation is quite normal. The Federal Government discussed the material and actually saw it in its comprehensive form for the first time, because we always had had reports from sessions, reports of some working groups, and so on, and now it was all together. After agreement between the premiers was reached, this material was put forward to all three governments for discussion.

Naturally, when the Federal Government was discussing it, various views were voiced, and therefore the discussion of this topic was withdrawn from the agenda as preparations of the answers had to be made, analysis prepared, explanations carried out, and so on. I returned yesterday to take part in that session. The government was in session last night from approximately 1900 to 0130. The result of this was a specific idea which makes the original proposal more exact and complements it and in some direction even improves on it.

I discussed this with Premier Meciar this morning. Unfortunately, I was unable to get in touch with Premier Pithart and therefore I asked Premier Meciar, who is seeing him, to convey to him the message that the standpoint of the three governments needs some further work at the level of the three premiers. This means this is a quite natural way of dealing with these matters, and we all have the goodwill to reassess the view of the Federal Government as a whole and try to include it in some way in the bill. I think we shall be successful. We shall have an opportunity tomorrow, as practicaly all of us will meet in Modra, including the representatives of legislative bodies. We shall discuss it there and agree on further action. [end recording]

Pithart Comments on Talks With Meciar

LD0911233890 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] In Luhacovice today Czech Premier Petr Pithart met with Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar.

Petr Pithart told journalists that both premiers assessed the situation after yesterday's [8 November] meeting of the Federal Government. It looks, Petr Pithart said, as though it [the Federal Government] has quite a different view on some issues than the national governments. Both premiers evaluated the possible alternatives in such a way as to prevent any constitutional crisis. It might happen that the interests of the federation will be defended more by the republic's bodies than by those for whom it is a part of the job description.

Petr Pithart and Vladimir Meciar concentrated in particular on the differing views which the Federal Government, as it seems, will take on the law on jurisdictions. Prior to tomorrow's meeting of all three governments, Petr Pithart underlined the efforts to achieve a mutual agreement. In Slovakia talks will be held in addition on synchronizing the work on constitutions and, Petr Pithart envisages, also about the adoption of the Charter of Human Rights.

Calfa Tours East Slovakia

LD1011002790 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Report on Premier Calfa's visit to East Slovakia on 9 November]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Premier Marian Calfa met National Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky at Kosice airport, in whose company he also visited the Air Force High School in Kosice. One of the issues here will probably be the possibility of using military school facilities for civilian purposes.

In the afternoon, after stopping off in the Kosice television studio, Marian Calfa held a meeting in the Biely Dom [White House] with people of the town.

Tomorrow, he will attend a meeting in Modra Harmonia with his counterparts in the republican governments and with representatives of the legislatures to continue discussing, among other things, the so-called power-sharing bill.

Calfa Views 8 Nov Meeting

LD1011005490 Prague Television Service in Slovak 1830 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Statement by CSFR Premier Marian Calfa on the 8 November government session to review the constitutional bill on the Czechoslovak Federation on 9 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The situation is completely normal. The Federal Government discussed this material and, in fact, saw it in its comprehensive way for the first time, because before we only had reports from the deliberations, reports about the conclusions of some working groups, and so on.

When things were together in this way, after mutual agreement between the premiers, this material was discussed by all three governments. Naturally, this was also discussed by the Federal Government, and while this was being done, various views were expressed. It was necessary to talk about them, which is why we had to get ready for it, we had to prepare the answers to discuss them, and so on.

I returned to attend the discussion yesterday. The government was in session at 1900 last night, until about 0130. Out of this, a certain conceptual idea was born which supplements this draft, which in some cases even improves on it.

I talked about this also with Premier Meciar this morning; unfortunately, I could not find Premier Pithart, so I asked Premier Meciar to communicate this to Pithart and tell him that one has to work on the level of the three premiers in one way or another.

This is a completely natural process, and we are all trying very hard once again to discuss even the viewpoint of the Federal Government as a whole and try to project it into the draft.

Personally, I think that we will be successful. We have an opportunity tomorrow because we will meet in Modra, in fact, all of us, including the representatives of the legislative coups. We will discuss the whole thing, and we will agree on further policies.

Calfa Speaks on Kosice Meeting

LD1011012290 Prague Television Service in Slovak 1850 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Statement by CSFR Premier Marian Calfa in Kosice on 9 November entitled "Ten Minutes With the Premier"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Calfa] Dear citizens: This time, our regular TV meeting finds me in the east of our Republic, in the Kosice studio. Allow me on this occasion to address you directly and share some of the thoughts inspired in me by conversations during meetings I held over the last three days here, in East Slovakia, with people in factories and public meetings.

I have been asking people how they view the prospects for their factories, jobs, and families, because I need to know how they are preparing for the change brought about by the onset of economic reform. The replies I have been getting from my meetings with people in the streets and in workshops are, therefore, extremely valuable and irreplaceable. They confirm that the reform has made as much progress as could have been possible in the given time.

We are only a few weeks away from privatization, the transition to internal convertibility of the korunas, price liberalization, and the opening of foreign trade. We are virtually on the starting blocks. We find ourselves in this position sooner than many people have even managed to realize, but changes in the system are only one side of the coin. The other side of the coin is the change which each and every one of us has to make ourselves. Each of us has to change and adapt to the new conditions, because, in short, there is no other way. Market forces mean that some win, but others will lose.

Naturally, as premier, I can ask my colleagues to provide me with data which reflect such things for me in the form of big figures. It is here, in East Slovakia, but also in North Moravia, that the newly emerging labor market is beginning to show supply in excess of demand. Two-fifths of the current 50,000 people registered as looking for work come from these regions. [passage omitted]

The Federal Government is currently working intensively on specifying the aims of its economic policy for the coming two years or so. By the end of November, more specific data should be available on the structural changes being envisaged, which will also bring about changes in employment. Even now, however, it is clear that the demand for manpower will fall as a result of conversion of the arms industry; the reduction in coal, ore, and uranium mining; and the disappearance of ineffective metallurgical production processes.

The further activity of our people in integration projects in the Soviet Union is also in the balance, because enterprises accustomed to the former soft ruble markets will be hit hard by the shift to accounting in freely convertible currency, under which inferior goods will simply no longer find a customer. Our ability to win through in the new conditions is now undergoing a stiff test in the new situation which has come about in ensuring oil supplies.

New jobs will be created in the private sector, in services, and in developing tourism, but this probably will take some time. The statistics show that now there are 250,000 such entrepreneurs, but most of them run their businesses as a backup to their regular job, because they themselves evidently still do not have very much confidence in the new opportunities. [passage omitted]

Let me return to the labor market. What can the state do for someone who loses his job? Experts talk about setting up a social safety net to prevent anyone from hitting rock bottom. No one should find himself without the minimum means to live, but a minimum means a minimum, and there is no point in creating illusions.

The first 45 job centers have been set up since 1 August. They are financed from the state budget, but that does not mean that the state wishes to have a monopoly in this respect. In the future, this activity could be done by other institutions, charity institutions or private enterprise firms, for example.

Many of the unemployed will first have to undergo a period of retraining, in some cases short, in others longer. Where more extensive structural changes will be taking place with the involvement of the state, special government programs will be drawn up to deal with employment issues, including social measures instituted by the government, local government bodies, economic organizations, and the trade unions.

Dear fellow citizens: But for the cleansing bath which our economy is now faced with, we would never extricate ourselves from the oblivion into which we have been driven by the past carefree decades. Only now will we see who, in fact, had no work in the past. You know what they say: They pretended to work, and the enterprise pretended to pay them. Well, dear friends, that is all definitively and irrevocably ending. The time is starting when the addage that man is master of his own destiny will really apply.

Pithart Sees Differences on Bill

LD1011015990 Prague CTK in English 1844 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Luhacovice, South Moravia, Nov 9 (CTK)—Czech Premier Petr Pithart said today that the Federal Government has a fundamentally different opinion on some aspects of the bill on defining the powers of the federal and republic governments than the republic governments.

The Federal Government has failed to approve the bill, which it started discussing yesterday, as it still needed some amendments, according to government officials. The bill has to be submitted to parliament by November 20 if it is to become law by the start of next year.

Pithart, on spa treatment here for several days, said the republic drafts of the bill cannot be changed and the premiers therefore met to consider alternatives, and added they were led by the attempt to avoid any constitutional crisis.

On the meeting of the three sides at Modra near Bratislava tomorrow, Pithart said it would deal, apart from the bill, also with synchronization of work on the constitutions and with the charter of human rights which is expected to be adopted in December.

Leaders Look for Common Standpoints

LD1011145790 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1430 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] A two-day meeting of state and political representatives of our republic opened today in Modra-Harmonia, near Bratislava. It is attended by federal Premier Marian Calfa and the two republican premiers, Petr Pithart and Vladimir Meciar, by Slovak National Council Chairman Frantisek Miklosko, and by Civic Forum and Public Against Violence leaders Vaclav Klaus and Fedor Gal.

The aim of the session, which is taking place behind closed doors, is to explain points of contention and find common standpoints on, among other things, the problems of the power sharing bill.

From sporadic news leaks it can be assessed that there are no serious contradictory viewpoints, but it is a matter of specifying certain matters which arose in discussion of the bill.

Leaders Comment on Talks

LD1011222990 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Excerpts] A two-day meeting of political and state representatives began today in Modra-Harmonia near Bratislava. [passage omitted]

During a break, Alica Bielikova succeeded in recording comments from Civic Forum [OF] leader Vaclav Klaus and Public Against Violence [VPN] leader Fedor Gal.

[Begin recording] [Gal, in Slovak] To begin with, I would like to give some facts. The first fact is that VPN has given its support to [Slovak] Premier Meciar [words indistinct] since he came up with the initiative at Trencianske Teplice. The second fact is that we take the view that problems are inevitably part and parcel of discussions of this type and there is only one way to solve these problems, which is dialogue and consensus. I believe that is what we will achieve today.

[Bielikova, in Slovak] May I ask you whether it is true that we are in a situation in which both governments have united against the federal governments?

[Klaus] I believe that this is a simplistic view. The thing is that there are certain problems coming to the surface here, and we have come, exactly as Fedor Gal says, to talk about them and find some solution. I do not think that we need this kind of simplistic polarization, that it is X against Y or Y against Z, if I can formulate it in this way. Today we spoke about the concept or rather the fundamental issues: so far we have not got round to talking about whether there are differences of view about powers in respect of this or that, and in any case that is not the purpose of this forum. That is something for the legislators to meet about and to set out the formulations. What we are talking about here is the conceptual solution of a given problem which has arisen following the talks between the premier. The republican governments basically adopted a document without discussion—in fact they were urged not to discuss it, but on the other hand the Federal Government began to discuss it, and certain matters arose which are being tabled for discussion.

[Bielikova] Is it really possible that on the basis of this problem the federation could be in jeopardy?

[Klaus] I do not think it is at all necessary to dramatize things. We are all looking for a pragmatic transitional solution. That is what we need, we need it for a thousand long-term and a thousand short-term reasons, that means today and tomorrow. I do not think that we need to....

[Bielikova, interrupting] As far as OF and VPN are concerned, are they united?

[Gal] Well, it is like this: We are coalition partners at the federal level. This coalition has a purpose but at this moment it is not simple. An internal crystallization of views is taking place both in OF and in our movement, and I see this as a normal development.

[Bielikova] Let me ask you what I have just asked Mr. Gal: Do OF and VPN agree in their views?

[Klaus] Look, you have to say on what, to what extent?

[Bielikova] On power sharing.

[Klaus] I would say that our views agree on what we are discussing and what we want to continue to discuss, and they agree on the certainty that we must find a solution in these talks. [passage omitted]

Party Power-Sharing Talks End

LD1111175590 Prague CTK in English 1513 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Bratislava Nov 11 (CTK)—The meeting of the political and state representation of Czechoslovakia, attended by some 200 participants, ended in Modra near Bratislava today.

For two days participants in the meeting clarified their standpoints and strive for a consensus on disputes which emerged from the discussions on the draft on defining the powers of the federal and republic governments, Chairman of the Slovak Council of the Public Against Violence Fedor Gal told CTK today, adding that different opinions still exist.

Another problem is the coalition (the Public Against Violence, the Christian Democratic Movement and the Democratic Party) and Slovakia. This coalition is under strong pressure as regards economic reforms and the federal set-up. The Public Against Violence has submitted to its coalition partners a draft coalition agreement defining the framework for the future discussions. Everybody must be aware of the fact that the existence of the coalition is a guarantee for the existence and functioning of the parliament and the government. Nobody wants social shocks at a time when it is necessary to solve serious economic problems, Gal stressed.

The Public Against Violence is the decisive political force in Slovakia. Its representatives said several times during the meeting that a joint state, a joint Federation is the basic priority for the movement, Czech Premier Petr Pithart told CTK after the meeting of the state and political representation in Modra near Bratislava today.

"It is our duty to definitively solve the question of powers. Citizens have the right to know a result. It is a question of several days", Pithart said.

Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar said that the main topic of the discussions were prospects of mutual coexistence in a federal state. "Slovak citizens have stressed several times that they want to live in a joint state. Therefore our policy ensues above all from this principle... personally I appreciate the constructive attitude of the Czech Government and the Czech National Council (parliament). There are in fact no different opinions and this agreement is reflected in a concept approved in joint standpoints. We are searching for ways out to ovecome certain differences in opinions which resulted from the discussions of the Federal Government... the state has to care for the interests of the republics, of citizens to ensure calm for a normal creative work and satisfaction of the citizens after a certain crisis period which we have to overcome," Meciar said.

Political Commissions Discuss National Proposals

LD0911131490 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1130 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Deputies' political commissions of the Federal Assembly and Czech and Slovak National Councils met in Bratislava today under the chairmanship of Alexander Dubcek, Federal Assembly chairman. They discussed the National Councils' proposals aimed at initiating a constitutional bill on basic rights and freedoms in such a way which would make it possible to discuss it in the Federal Assembly on the occasion of Human Rights Day on 10 December. The meeting was attended by the chairmen of republican parliament Dagmar Buresova and Frantisek Miklosko.

Provisions for Local Elections Detailed

LD0911135190 Prague CTK in English 1141 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Prague, Nov 9 (CTK)—Candidates representing fifty-five political parties and movements in the Czech Republic and 56 parties and movements in the Slovak Republic will compete for seats in local elections to be held November 23 and 24 in Slovakia and November 24 in Bohemia and Moravia.

Each party, movement or coalition may present for election only as many candidates as there are seats in the newly formed municipalities. Independent candidates must present a petition with a certain number of signatures supporting their candidacy (according to the population of the municpality) in order to run for office.

Candidates for local government must be at least 18 years old on election day and must reside in the municipality where they seek election.

Electoral campaigns in the Czech Republic opened 25 days prior to the elections and will end 48 hours before the polls open. In Slovakia campaigns started 30 days before balloting, also terminating 48 hours before the elections begin. All candidates have equal access to both local and state media during the campaigns.

Candidates for mayor in Slovakia must be at least 25 years old on election day and may run at the same time for a seat on the town council. Otherwise the same rules apply for mayoral candidates as for town council candidates. Mayors in the Czech Republic will be elected by the new municipal councils.

The Electoral Commission of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Parliament rejected in October the ruling of the CSFR Federal Parliament under which candidates would be checked for whether or not they had ever cooperated with the Czechoslovak Secret Police, "STB". The Czech Electoral Commission considers the federal parliament's decision to be an inadmissible interference with the rights of the republics, while the Slovak Presidium is opposed to the unleashing of passions in this matter.

In the parliamentary elections of June 8 and 9 of this year Czechoslovak citizens simply vote for political parties, movements and coalitions, which then filled the seats they won with their candidates. Independent candidates were not allowed to run as such but only if a party, movement or coalition accepted them onto its list.

Liberal Democrats Criticize OF on 'Perfectionism'

LD0911232890 Prague CTK in English 1929 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Prague Nov 9 (CTK)—Representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party stressed today the need to halt the dismantling of the Czechoslovak state and to hold a public debate on its future shape.

At a press conference marking the first anniversary of the party's foundation (originally named Czechoslovak Democratic Initiative which was on the Civic Forum [OF] list in the June parliamentary elections), newsmen were acquainted with the Party Executive Committee principles, stating that the Czechoslovak Federation was being rapidly dismantled and a confederation virtually introduced. A confederation cannot be introduced without the consent of both (Czech and Slovak) nations, party leaders believe, and suggest that the country should be a federal state of three entities, with each having the right to enter or leave it.

The party leadership also suggested a substantial reconstruction of the Federal and Czech Governments, personnel changes in top power posts in the state and legislative bodies.

The party leaders supported the economic reform but criticized the OF for its hesitating approach and perfectionism in putting reforms into practice.

Transfer of Communist Party Property Discussed

AU0811060490 Prague CTK in English 1745 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Prague, 6 Nov (CTK)—A Czechoslovak Government bill on the return of Czechoslovak Communist Party property to the people of Czechoslovakia was debated in the Cultural and Social Committees of both Houses of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly today.

Minister of Control Kvetoslava Korinkova explained that state subsidies to the party, which reached an overall amount of 32,000 million korunas, were granted to the party under then valid, though dubious, laws and therefore the transfer of party property must also be carried out in a constitutional way.

As regards the amount to be handed over to the state, Communist Deputy Jiri Svoboda, the party chairman, said the party could not return the 32,000 million korunas as the party does not have this amount. Other deputies proposed to confiscate the property of former party and state representatives.

Korinkova stated that the party's property dropped from 7,500 million in the spring of 1990 to the present 1,000-2,000 million, explaining the inaccuracy of the figures by the fact that the transfer of property to the national committees is not under control. She stated that membership fees after January 1, 1990 are to be confiscated, but added that the party will have the same conditions for political activities as the other parties. "We do not want this law to be interpreted as if we wanted to discriminate against the Czechoslovak Communist Party," Korinkova said.

Economy Ministers Disagree on Transit Gas Pipeline

AU0811060390 Prague CTK in English 1846 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Prague, 6 Nov (CTK)—Economy Ministers of the Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak Governments Vladimir Dlouhy, Karel Dyba, and Jozef Belcak respectively, agreed in Znojmo, South Moravia, yesterday to set up a joint commission of experts to submit within a fortnight a report concerning the structure of the transit gas pipeline enterprise.

A working meeting was convened with the aim to unify the opinions of the three governments on the division of powers in the economic sphere and determination of approach towards state's structural policies. Different ideas of the Federal and the Slovak Governments on the structure of the transit gas pipeline enterprise in the future were not the main item on the agenda of the talks. This issue was under discussion only at the end of the meeting, said a statement of the Federal Economy Ministry.

The Slovak Government favours a variant that the transit gas pipeline enterprise should be divided into two independent national companies from the organizational and economic viewpoints.

Klaus Interviewed on OF, Economic Reform

AU0811110590 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 2 Nov 90 p 9

[Interview with Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus by LIDOVE NOVINY correspondents Rudolf Zeman and Vladimir Mynar; place and date not given: "I Am a Conservative Man"]

[Text] [LIDOVE NOVINY] You are the head of the Ministry of Finance, which is a full-time job alone, and, in addition to that, you have been the Civic Forum [OF] chairman for three weeks. Can we understand this to be a part-time job for a busy finance minister?

[Klaus] I would not call it a part-time job. I have said repeatedly that in my positions—as the finance minister and as the organizer of the economic reform—my role is a political one, in many cases. During my 11 months in this position I have had to search for political support for the economic reform program. I understand that my election as chairman of the OF is clear approval of radical economic reform.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Some people say that you have become the OF chairman due to the natural development in the OF and others believe that you knowingly aspired to become the chairman.

[Klaus] I was involved in the OF in various ways but only because I wanted to gain sufficient support for the reform. The fact that I had been elected OF chairman was a surprise to me.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] More and more often you are labelled as a right-wing politician. Can you give us your own political description of yourself?

[Klaus] I have written an essay on this subject: "Suppressed Premises of Our Political Clashes." I am really a man who believes that people who believe in interventionism—who believe that there is some kind of predefined "good" which can be learned and implemented by someone—are deeply mistaken. I consider this to be a too self-confident intellectualism which I do not share....

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Many people think that you yourself are a self-confident intellectual.

[Klaus] This is something absolutely different. Some people want to implement the good; others only want to create conditions which would allow the competition of various opinions and views.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Are you a right-wing politician, then?

[Klaus] Of course. I have never made a secret of that. I am a conservative man—I believe that has always been apparent. I believe that I do not lack clear opinions behind which I stand firmly and which I do not want to abandon under any circumstances. I believe that it is an illusion to live and to make decisions under unstructured quasi-coalitions, which the OF has been so far. I cannot do that. I am against searching for some kind of new political methods other than the tested system of political parties with their fight for voters.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Can you briefly define your political program?

[Klaus] This is an unstructured question because the word "political program" is too general. There are short-term, mid-term, and long-term programs, etc. I have no ambition to invent something new at any price. I accept the tested institutes in (market) economics and also in politics. My thinking is quite standard and I do not believe in innovations in politics. I believe that the system of political parties is quite sensible. Whether the party is to be a party of a ideologically "tough" type or only an vote-seeking "election-variant" party—as is the case in the United States—this is a different matter. In any case, the idea of a long-term existence of simple civic initiatives in practical policy is as unrealistic as the idea of central planning in the economy.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] You do not stress the importance of civic initiatives in politics?

[Klaus] No, I do not. I am of the opinion that civic initiatives are a short-term solution. They can, from time to time, draw the attention of society to something which has been forgotten, they can alert the society, but they have only limited chances. I do not think that, under normal circumstances, they can form a basis for a political structure of the society.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Do we have normal political circumstances yet...?

[Klaus] If we speak about whether the reason for the existence of civic initiatives has disappeared, then yes, I think so. I do not want you to take me at my word because this is a very complex question. It would be more precise to say that the reason for their existence is disappearing.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] You have a clear concept for the economic reform. What about the reform in the OF?

[Klaus] I can say quite frankly that my idea about the OF reform is less clear than my concept for the economic reform, which I often compare to the game of chess. I say: Do not ask me what the situation will look like after the 15th or 25th move. Test me to see if I know how to react correctly if the opponent plays Indian defense. This is also valid in politics. There are clear contours of the OF reform, however, the details are not clear yet.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Petr Janys wrote in the weekly RESPECT that your election as OF chairman has the disadvantage that, if there are complications in the economic reform, you will need the support of the OF and it will be difficult for you to support yourself. Your possible failure would mean a catastrophe for the OF. Is that not too big a risk?

[Klaus] There is some substance to what you are saying but it may be less dramatic. As long as there are no genuine political leaders born and brought up who could devote their time to professional politics and lead movements like the OF, there is no other possibility. I do not see any other possibility and therefore I cannot look at this question is such a clear light.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] The president said in the OF Assembly some time ago that in his opinion the OF should retain its current structure for some time to come. It is no secret that you have a different opinion about the OF structure. Nevertheless, a few days after your election you and the president demonstrated a unity of opinion. Can you tell us who changed his opinion?

[Klaus] A change in opinion does not mean that one has to change one's credo. Very often the situation also changes. Today, it seems to me that our public has structured itself more politically than it had been some months ago. The question is whether one should passively wait and see where society will head on its own or whether we should help society take this or that direction. The process of political awareness in Czechoslovakia has been very strong in recent weeks and months. Opinions about the OF in July may differ from the opinions about the OF in November, yet this does not mean that one has changed his opinion. It means that only the external conditions have changed.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Still, who took a larger step...?

[Klaus] This is a classical—and quite unnecessary—journalistic question. Personification of some problems takes us away from their substance. Everyone can see that the president and I are of the same opinion that the changes recently implemented in the OF are to the benefit of the OF. The inevitable establishment of the Interparliamentary Club of the Democratic Right Wing was a reaction to something and did not happen without a reason; this establishment was forced, to a certain degree, by left-wing attacks. My opinion that it was beneficial is in concert with the opinion of the president. I am a realistic politician and I know that I must not alienate myself too much from the general sense of society. Despite my clear-cut opinions, I have a feeling that I follow the pulse of the times very carefully and that I weigh what is possible and what is not.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] You have become the chief of the party that won the elections. In a democratic system you would probably take over the seat of a premier. Are you not contemplating this change?

[Klaus] Our constitution does not provide for this. I feel enormous responsibility for the economic reform. From time to time I even have a feeling that my political activity takes me away from our everyday debate about the details of the reform. This is why I do not consider your question....

[LIDOVE NOVINY] OK, but as a premier you would be able to push for the economic reform and your ideas about further social development more efficiently.

[Klaus] I consider your question to be speculative and inadequate to the situation. If you are asking whether I would be able to physically and mentally perform in this function then I can give you a positive answer, but it is not a subject which I would seriously contemplate.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Do you have an idea how to formulate the Czech policy in relation to Czechoslovak statehood?

[Klaus] The absence of Czech policy is an objective fact. The Czech side has never had a need to work out its own policy. Soon it will become apparent whether this is a big mistake. I am of the opinion that the problem of the competence between the republics and the federation does depend only on the definition of Czech statehood. It is not realistic to want to solve all the problems within six months. Our mirrors are warped (not only the prices). I would prefer to straighten up economic relations first. I believe that many things will become clear in politics as well.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] What is your view on the political development in Slovakia?

[Klaus] I have been to Slovakia a number of times. I had crowds of people shaking my hand in the same way they did in North Bohemia or South Moravia. They were saying: Do all in your power not to destroy our federation. I participated in meetings in Zilina, Trencin, and Bratislava in which thousands of people took part. Aggressive nationalism was quite rare. I have the impression that the opinion of the silent Slovaks is different from the opinion presented to us by the communications media.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] You had dealings with Mr. Meciar last week. Is he also a representative of the silent majority?

[Klaus] Mr. Meciar is not silent, that is certain, and he is a very outstanding man. I saw him for the first time in my life and therefore I am not quite sure about all of the peculiarities in his personality. In his opinions, so it seems, a combination of things are reflected. I must admit that I am unable to orient myself to them. In any case, today's Slovak policy tries to define everything very quickly and permanently. I do not think it is very sensible. I believe that we must proceed gradually and search for the greatest common denominator of our interests rather then fix all our future limits. We have to find a quick solution to the problems about which we agree and leave room for their gradual fine tuning. We have to adopt some principles which we must respect. I am quite troubled by the current speculations about establishing more banks and similar matters which are more essential than classical political controversy. If, for example, the monetary system is split in two, then we will be going beyond acceptable limits.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] How do you as finance minister see the possibility of the breakup of the federation?

[Klaus] I am trying to prevent it. Unfortunately, we will face a significant test soon: the approval of the 1991 state budget. We will clearly see whether we are able to implement a uniform financial policy. For the time being, I can tell you that we are doing everything to hold on to unity.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] The non-approval of the state budget is basically the only thing, according to the constitution, which could lead to the dissolution of the parliament and the call for new elections.

[Klaus] Of course. In my opinion it would be a great pity, however, and this is why I am trying to do my best to prevent it. I had the impression that we were close to a solution in the Financial Council, yet recently our agreements were violated once again. Nevertheless, I hope that some solution will be found. Contrary to public opinion, I believe that our existing parliament is good. I fear that any other quickly established parliament would be worse. I know that parliament turned the public against it becuase of the debate about the hyphen [in the name of the republic] on the one hand, and by approving high salaries for the deputies on the other. Despite this I say that the quality and the professionalism of our parliament grows and is, in its composition today, a stabilizing element of the country.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] You have a reputation for being a very self-confident and sometimes arrogant man with whom it is difficult to collaborate. Is this slander by your enemies or is there something to it?

[Klaus] Someone else should judge this. I am going to explain only one thing on this subject. I have certain opinions and ideas and I think that they are correct. If someone does not have such ideas then he can smile at everyone around him. If, however, I am advocating something important, then it is natural that I will run into conflicts. I do no see any other possibility. It may also be true that I speak more ironically and mockingly than others do when explaining opinions, but that is not the important thing.

Prices of Imported Food To Go Up 3 Nov

AU0911105890 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 3 Nov 90 p 1

["nn"-signed report: "Oranges for 23 Korunas"]

[Text] Prague (from our correspondent)—The higher import prices of tropical and subtropical fruit and the devaluation of the Czechoslovak koruna carried out on 15 October 1990 will, on the basis of a decision by the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic Ministries of

Finance, be reflected in retail prices as of 3 November. The new maximum retail prices have been fixed as follows: 17 korunas for one kg of lemons, 23 korunas for oranges, and 15 korunas for Cuban grapefruits.

By the same date, retail organizations may also project the impact of the devaluation and changes in import prices into the retail prices of other types of tropical and subtropical fruits.

The devaluation will also speed up by two months some reform steps connected with the rectification of prices. Increases in the retail prices of domestically manufactured products will be within the jurisdiction of retail organizations. Apart from tropical and subtropical fruits, price setting organizations will decide only on the prices of a few designated food products (such as tea or powdered milk), pharmaceuticals, and domestically manufactured automobiles. As regards imports from the hard currency area, there will be an increase in the prices of luxury items (such as those sold in the Eso, Luxus, and similar retail chains). At the same time, the currently high turnover taxes will be lowered in all instances where they exceed the uniform turnover tax rates that will go into force on 1 January 1991.

Army 'Ready To Take Action' in November '89

AU0811060090 Prague CTK in English 2132 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Prague, 6 Nov (CTK)—The Army was ready from the legislative, organizational, cadre and technical points of view to take action against demonstrators in Prague in November 1989, chairman of the Presidential Commission Investigating the Army Activity in November 1989 and federal parliament Deputy Vojtech Deyl said here today.

Reporting on the outcome of the investigations of the commission, he said that it was necessary to refute the myth that the Army, in line with its stands and conviction, prevented a violent settlement of the situation. He pointed out that no action of the "singled out forces and means" was counted with for November 17. It was only on November 23 that the then Defense Minister Milan Vaclavik gave orders for possible use of force. At a special session of the Czechoslovak Communist Party on November 24, 1989 General Vaclavik urged that the Army and the People's Militia units be put on alert. But the political leadership was not united and gave no order. New party General Secretary Karel Urbanek called on all Army officers on November 30 to understand that the Army cannot be used for "external and internal reasons" and asked them "not to cause him any troubles."

Member of the commission Colonel Jiri Horak spoke about activities of former Defense Minister Army General Miroslav Vacek. He said that on his initiative regulations on the action of Security Force units against demonstrations were updated in July 1989. In August and October 1989 he gave an order, in line with the Federal Interior Ministry demand, to test forces and equipment for use in extraordinary security measures. Colonel Horak also pointed out the link between Vacek and high officials at the Interior Ministry and in the secret police.

The Federal Assembly deputies asked Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky to check the liquidation of some materials ordered by Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Anton Slimak on March 28, 1990.

New Commander of Eastern Military District Named

AU0911161890 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 8 Nov 90 p 2

[CTK report in the "By Teletype, Mail, Telephone...." column]

[Text] Major General Engineer Jozef Tuchyna has been appointed the new commander of the Eastern Military District by an order of the CSFR president.

Defense Minister Visits Military Institutes

LD0911231190 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1100 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky, by editor Marta Lancova in Kosice; date not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] As you know, dear listeners, federal Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus visited Eastern Slovakia the day before yesterday. The Slovak Government met in the eastern part of the republic yesterday, and in the evening Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky came to Kosice. This seemed a bit much, and therefore editor Marta Lancova asked Mr. Dobrovsky what is happening in the eastern part of the country.

[Begin recording] [Dobrovsky] It is you who should know what is happening in the east; it is you who are at home here. I think it is accidental. I am here because I am interested in military institutes of higher learning. I have already visited a military academy in Liptovsky Mikulas. Today I am in Kosice, and tomorrow I shall have a chance to visit the military in Kosice. The majority of military academies are in Slovakia; they are of extreme importance to us, and I would like to get an idea about their state, possibilities, and future. [passage omitted]

We would like above all to find a way to enable civilians to study in the Kosice military air academy, which teaches not only flying but also design and repair of planes and other things which could help our Czechoslovak industry. [passage omitted]

[Lancova] Do you think the Army will accept you as a civilian?

[Dobrovsky] I am not here to make any prognosis of whether I believe it will or not. This is not something to be believed; it is the issue of the results of work. The important thing is to find a common language. The Army is not an organism excluded from the civilian life of the state, but is an inseparable part. [end recording]

Czech Economic Council Discusses Skoda, Temelin

AU0711095390 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech
2 Nov 90 pp 1, 12

[CTK report: "Conditions for the Automobile Plant's Partners"]

[Text] The first point on the agenda of yesterday's Czech Government Economic Council session, which was chaired by Deputy Premier Frantisek Vlasak, was a detailed summary of the Czech Government's strategy for the final round of negotiations on merging the Mlada Boleslav Skoda works with a foreign partner. The subject of the decisionmaking was not the selection of a future partner for our automobile plant. A decision will be made about this issue in December. The aim of the discussion was to determine starting points for formulating conditions in the taxes, prices, wages, employment, customs, automobile imports and exports, and components spheres. These conditions will apply to whichever partner is selected. These conditions will be made known to both partners in the game—that is, Renault and Volkswagen—during the second half of December.

The second point on the agenda was a report on suggestions for a site for the construction of a nuclear power plant with an output of 2,000 megawatts to succeed the first and second blocks at the Temelin nuclear power plant. The economic council was inclined toward the view adopted by the majority of domestic and foreign experts who, for ecological and economic reasons, recommend that the construction of the nuclear plant's third and fourth blocks be commenced in the locality of Temelin.

The principles for financially rewarding enterprise directors and managerial staff in enterprises were an important point on the economic council's agenda. Although this issue will continue to be the subject of government discussions, it may be envisaged that as of 1 January—through the medium of so-called managerial contracts (concluded between the director and the founder)—there will be a considerable improvement in the system of financial rewards for managerial staff in order to increase their status as entrepreneurial employees.

In harmony with the government's policy statement, the economic council also discussed the proposed course of action for the renewal and development of border regions in the Czech Republic during the years 1991-92. A form of tax levies has been suggested to assist entrepreneurs. Preferential treatment in the wages, financial, and housing sectors has also been proposed as a means of helping citizens in the selected territory. The results of the activity of the Czech-Austrian commission for cooperation in border areas were discussed separately. Measures were adopted on implementing the idea of founding a Gmund-Ceske Velenice innovation center. This innovation center would assist the region's economic development.

People's Party Issues Statement on Cooperation

LD1111181190 Prague CTK in English 1529 GMT
11 Nov 90

[Text] Prague Nov 10 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak People's Party is prepared for a constructive though at the same time critical cooperation with all political forces which want to strive for the creation of a prosperous, pluralistic, free and democratic society, said a statement of the party issued here today.

There are again attempts at reducing the freedom of speech and the press. The state mass communication media prefer one political force. The situation in the Army and police is confused, lacking public and effective parliamentary control. A new power monopoly is being created. One year after the November 1989 events responsible bodies are unable to provide unambiguous information about these events. Czechoslovakia does not guarantee political stability and legal certainty for foreign investors. The nomenclature communist mafia has not been stripped of its influence and people are increasingly worried about the consequences of the economic reform, the statement of the Czechoslovak People's Party said.

Civic Forum on Return of Communist Party Property

LD0911232190 Prague CTK in English 1710 GMT
9 Nov 90

[Text] Prague Nov 9 (CTK)—The passing of a bill on the return of Communist Party property to the people of Czechoslovakia by the federal parliament would run counter to the Czechoslovak Constitution, a parliamentary deputy and representative of the inter-parliamentary club of the democratic right said here today.

At a press conference of the Civic Forum, Miroslav Macek said that in debating the bill, presented by the Federal Government, the deputies have been tackling the problem that "on the one hand property is being nationalized, while on the other the Constitution guarantees its protection," Macek added that the best viable solution would be if Communists returned their property themselves.

Referring to the explusion of some deputies from the Civic Forum parliamentary group, Macek said the majority of the group members are against such explusions, adding that the expulsion of Liberal Democratic Party deputies several weeks ago would probably be revoked.

Civic Forum vice-chairman in charge of organizational matters Milan Kondr stated that the Civic Forum feels the need to change its structure, which he said will be a difficult thing to do, and that was why the Civic Forum Council postponed a Civic Forum congress from December to January 1991.

Asked what the Civic Forum's reaction would be if Slovakia left the Czechoslovak federation if the Slovaks wish so, Civic Forum coordinating centre chief Vojtech

Sedlacek said the Forum favoured a common federal state of the Czechs and Slovaks.

Revival Statement on Union With Social Democracy

LD1111174590 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1500 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] The union of Revival [Obroda] and Social Democracy [Socialni Demokracie] should be the axis of the integration process in creating a truly united left. The process must gradually include all democratic left-wing forces and must simultaneously take place from below and above. This emerges from the resolution adopted by Revival. The representatives do not consider the Communist Party to be a democratic left-wing force even after its congress. Revival also wishes to cooperate with that part of Civic Forum which continues to hold the original ideas as they were most recently stated in the standpoint of the interparliamentary civic association.

Plant Director Denies Radioactive Contamination

LD1011064890 Prague CTK in English 1520 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Prague Nov 9 (CTK)—Director of the Ores Chemical Processing Plant "Mape" at Mydlovary, South Bohemia, Stefan Lasica told CTK today that repeated radioactivity measurements in Mape's vicinity have yielded unequivocally harmless results.

The Mape director talked to CTK in connection with the publication by Czech dailies today of a report by the Austrian Institute of Ecology according to which the plant's vicinity is alarmingly contaminated with radioactivity.

Lasica wondered why the public opinion is again stirred with ungrounded, strongly distorted and false data at a time when official expert institutions and their world-recognized specialists have refuted several times recently the rumours that Mape adversely affects its vicinity.

The report claims that the highly contaminated waste dump does not pose a threat only to the close surroundings of Mape since contaminated waste has been dumped there since the beginning of the 1950's. According to Bossew, the inadequate storage of wastes can contaminate surface waters for thousands of years.

According to the Austrian institute, its nuclear physicist Peter Bossew carried out ecological research at Mydlovary on request of the Austrian Greenpeace Organization. Measurements allegedly revealed a concentration of 800,00 bq/kg of radium-226 at the Mape waste dump spreading on several hundreds of square metres (natural radium concentration in soil is 50-60 bq/kg).

Stefan Lasica said this question should be dealt with only by real specialists and not organizations lacking necessary erudition and experience.

In conclusion of the interview with CTK, the director said that Mape does not know Peter Bossew and is not aware that he would have carried out an ecological research at the enterprise.

Miklosko Interviewed on Language Law Debate

AU0911113990 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 3 Nov 90 p 2

[Interview with Slovak National Council Chairman Frantisek Miklosko by Marta Durkovska in the "One Question For" column; place and date not given]

[Text] [Durkovska] Why did the [Slovak] parliament not also discuss at its seventh meeting [on 25 October], apart from the coalition draft of the Slovak language law, the draft submitted by the Slovak National Heritage Foundation?

[Miklosko] The Slovak National Council has 10 committees, deputies of eight of which accepted the coalition draft of the language law. One committee turned down all the drafts and one recommended the foundation's draft. It is customary that the parliament discuss the draft which received the majority of votes, which is why the coalition draft was given unequivocal preference. Together with other deputies I was of the opinion that it would not be correct, from the political viewpoint, not to discuss in the plenum the foundation's draft and the draft submitted by the Hungarian ethnic minority. It seemed to be logical to me, however, given the clear preference received by the coalition draft, for the plenum to discuss the coalition draft first. We assumed that, if the coalition draft did not pass, we would automatically move toward discussing the foundation's draft. We also proceeded from the premise that, in view of our acceptance of all three drafts for discussion, the deputies would try to incorporate their provisions into the eight articles of the coalition draft (which they actually did). I do not have the feeling that any manipulation occurred here. It was the normal and customary parliamentary procedure.

As for the proceedings themselves, the debate went on for 10 hours without leading anywhere. There were two camps which were unable to come to an agreement. Minister Kosta came up with the proposal to formulate a new parliamentary law. His proposal, which also received support from some deputies, was not accepted, however, for the following reason that needs to be stressed: I announced an intermission, in the course of which I met with the proponents of the foundation's version of the law. I told them that I would like to ask them candidly whether they believe that a consensus is possible. They told me that it was not. It was at this moment that I decided to stop the debate and asked, after 10 hours of debating, that we proceed to vote on the law.

'Text' of Slovak Language Law Published

LD1011002890 Prague CTK in English 1533 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Prague Nov 9 (CTK)—Twenty-five Slovaks have resumed their hunger strike in Bratislava to protest against the law on the Slovak language which has divided the Slovak public into two camps and given rise to demonstrations for several weeks. [passage omitted]

The full text of the law is as follows:

The Slovak National Council has approved the following law:

Section 1 Introductory Provisions

1. It is the purpose of the law to declare an official language in the Slovak Republic as an instrument of mutual understanding and communication on its state territory and thereby ensure the necessary conditions for smooth and efficient execution of state power and administration, self-government and all-round social development.

2. Use of the official language must aid the development of democracy and culture of the Slovak nation and the national minorities in the Slovak Republic in the spirit of understanding, strengthening of national tolerance, humanity and international commitments in the sphere of human rights.

Section 2 Official Language

The official language on the state territory of the Slovak Republic is the Slovak language.

Section 3 Use of Official Language

1. State bodies and bodies of local government in towns and villages and their staff are obliged to use the official language in their activities. Natural and fictitious persons use the official language in official communication in the spoken as well as written form unless special provisions do not specify otherwise. [sentence as received]

2. Public papers are issued in the official language.

3. State bodies and bodies of local government in towns and villages and their staff must create prerequisites for being able to use the official language in speech and writing, and/or in another form recognized by the state.

4. The names of the villages, towns and their quarters, streets, squares and public areas as well as other gepgraphic names are marked in the official language.

Section 4 Teaching of the Official Language

The state is obliged to create conditions in the educational system for the citizens of the Slovak Republic to learn the Slovak language to an extent desirable for use in official and ordinary coommunication.

Section 5 Care of the Official Language

The state takes care of scientific research and improvement in the culture and purity of the official language.

Section 6 Use of Other Languages

1. Citizens may also use the Czech language in official communication.

2. If members of a national minority account for at least 20 percent of the population of a town or village, they may use their language in official communication in such towns and villages. If a citizen, who is not a member of a national minority, is involved in official communication in such towns or villages, the business is conducted in the official langauge. The staff of the state bodies and bodies of self-government of towns and villages are not obliged to know and use the language of the national minority. Public papers and documents are made out in the official language.

3. State bodies and bodies of local government in towns and villages assess the possibility, purposefulness and method of the use of a language in official communication according to Paragraphs 1 and 2, with regard to Sections 1 and 4 of this act.

4. The provisions of Paragraphs 1 and 2 do not affect the rights of members of the national minorities ensuing from special regulations.

Section 7

Disputes concerning the use of the official language are decided by the relevant authorized bodies of state administration (district boards), and their rulings are reviewed by courts.

Section 8

This law becomes effective on the day of its declaration.

Andras Discounts Possibility of Slovak Civil War

AU0911110090 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Slovak 5 Nov 90 pp 1, 2

["(IH)"-signed report: "Long Live Andras!"]

[Excerpt] Kosice—Immediately after the resignation of Slovak Interior Minister Anton Andras on Friday, 2 November 1990, the second Christian Democratic Movement [KDH] assembly was held in Kosice on 3 November. Approximately 1,000 delegates from throughout Slovakia convened to discuss the movement's draft articles and to elect a chairman and a central secretary for another year.

Prior to the start of the discussions, it was clear that the government crisis of the last few days would be at the center of the delegates' attention. Anton Andras was greeted with thunderous applause when he entered the assembly hall.

Following the introductory address delivered by Jan Petrik, Ivan Carnogursky, Slovak National Council deputy chairman, gave a briefing on the coalition talks. He explained to the delegates that when the premier had submitted his resignation and when all the other Public Against Violence movement and Democratic Party ministers had threatened to hand in their resignations, it was impossible to retain Minister Andras. After considering the possible consequences of the coalition's collapse, Anton Andras tendered his resignation by letter. He rejected the premier's accusations, declaring them to be untrue and he justified his resignation by stating that Slovakia needs peace and quiet.

During the first break in the KDH assembly's discussions, a news conference with former Minister Andras was held. "It was agreed," said Anton Andras, "that we will not attack each other, but that I will be allowed to publicly defend myself." During the news conference, journalists had an opportunity to look into an area which is normally inaccessible to citizens. Anton Andras compared his activity at the Interior Ministry to a struggle with an octopus. He stated that his house is under guard 24 hours a day and he indirectly hinted that the reason for his alleged incompetence was the fact that, during the course of two weeks, he had transferred 140 State Security officers. In reply to a question on whether the premier is attempting to gain personal control at the Interior Ministry, he said: "It began as a personal dispute, it continued as a coalition dispute, and it could go even further."

In reply to a question about the security situation in Slovakia, Anton Andras eliminated the danger of a civil war. He described the number of weapons which may be possessed illegally as negligible. He described the fact that, in connection with the preparations for the local elections, the premier "had created a supra-departmental organ out of a government office" as a dangerous precedence. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows Drop in VPN Popularity Stops

AU0911060290 Prague CTK in English 1806 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Bratislava Nov 7 (CTK)—A total of 21 percent of Slovaks would vote for the Slovak National Party, 15 percent for the Public Against Violence (VPN), the sister movement of the Civic Forum in Slovakia, if local elections were held tomorrow, according to a poll carried out on October 4 to 16 among 2,576 respondents in the Slovak Republic.

A total of 13 percent of the respondents would vote for the Christian Democratic Movement and 12 percent for the Communist Party of Slovakia-Democratic Left Party.

The poll conducted by the Center for the Research of Social Problems has further shown that a drop in popularity of the VPN has partly stopped at present. The Slovak National Party, which has voiced radical nationalistic demands in a debate over the language law recently, does not represent the nation's majority, the government coalition has still considerable support of the citizens, the Communist Party of Slovakia-Democratic Left Party has the most stable number of supporters and a decisive number of potential voters is among the undecided.

The wave of political activity has dropped considerably, however an estimated 80 percent of the voters are going to take part in the upcoming local elections (November 23-24 in the Slovak Republic). Only 5 percent of the persons questioned do not want to vote at all, the poll has indicated.

Slovak, Hungarian Peace Activists Meet in Blahova

LD1011185990 Prague CTK in English 1632 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Bratislava Nov 10 (CTK)—A meeting of representatives of the Slovak Union for Peace and Human Rights and the Hungarian Peace Council continued in Blahova (South Slovakia) today by a seminar on relations between the pentagonal initiative member countries.

Czechoslovak First Deputy Foreign Minister Robert Harencar characterized the position of Czechoslovakia in the framework of the pentagonal and said that the country considers the pentagonal a significant all-European peace institution.

Secretary of the Hungarian Peace Council Istvan Fodor pointed to the creation of new tensions in Europe marked by nationalism and anti-semitism and to aggravated living conditions. Commenting on the current problems between Czechoslovakia and Hungary he said that only mutual tolerance and support will enable the countries to join the common European home.

Foreign Governments Allegedly Supervised Revolution

AU0911060390 Prague CTK in English 1945 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Prague Nov 7 (CTK)—Miroslav Dolejsi, the author of a report about a Reagan-Gorbachev agreement in preparing the November 1989 revolution in Czechoslovakia, was invited for an interview by the parliamentary commission investigating the November 17 events here today.

Spokesman for the commission Petr Toman told newsmen that it was not an interrogation but an informative talk. Mr. Dolejsi handed over his report of 45 pages to the commission but failed to present any evidence. Some excerpts from this document have recently been published by the tabloid CENTRAL BOHEMIAN DAILY EXPRES.

The sensational document published in the paper alleged that governments, diplomatic corps and international organizations of the U.S. Western allies supervised activities of organizations opposing the totalitarian regime in Czechoslovakia. These activities were partially controlled by the Soviet secret police KGB. Everything was financed by Jewish sponsors, the report said.

USSR's Gorbachev Cables Havel on FRG Trip

LD0911161590 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1400 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On his way to the FRG, when flying over Czechoslovak territory, USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev sent from the aircraft a telegram of greetings to the president of the Republic, Vaclav Havel.

Soviet Soldier 'Disappears' After Asking for Help

AU1011171290

[Editorial Report] Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech on 5 November on page 1 carries a 120-word "js"-signed Moscow dispatch entitled "Private Maslyaev Has Disappeared." The report mentions that "a few days after LIDOVE NOVINY published Private Maslyaev's letter asking CSFR President Vaclav Havel for asylum and the possibility to live permanently in Czechoslovakia," a car with four men picked him up in his barracks at Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, where he had performed his national service, and took him away. According to the report, no one is able to tell Maslyaev's parents their son's current whereabouts.

On 7 November, on page 16, LIDOVE NOVINY carries a 250-word undated interview with Michael Kocab, chairman of the parliamentary commission supervising the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia. Asked about Private Maslyaev's fate, Kocab says that, immediately after the publication of the report in the 5 November issue of LIDOVE NOVINY, he contacted Soviet Ambassador Pankin and General Vorobyev, commander of the Central Group of Soviet Troops. They were both "surprised" by the report and the ambassador promised that "he will verify what actually happened."

Dienstbier Comments on Relations With Germany

LD1111181890 Prague CTK in English 1716 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Prague Nov 11 (CTK)—The current relations between Czechoslovakia and Germany were discussed at a civic forum rally in Karlovy Vary, West Bohemia, which was attended by Czechoslovak Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier.

The expelling of the Germans in 1945 was a revenge, Jiri Dienstbier told the rally. Dealing with the issue of property demands of Sudeten Germans he said they do not exist on the inter-governmental level. The Sudeten German Landsmannschaft has no similar demands either. Theoretically speaking, if such demands are raised Czechoslovakia could numerically express the damage caused to the country by Munich, March 15 and the Hitlerite occupation. On this basis its claims would be much higher. It has been agreed with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher that a newly prepared treaty will rule out all doubts concerning the past to enable the two countries to concentrate only on the future, Jiri Dienstbier stressed.

Army Accord on Business Trips Signed With FRG

LD0811210690 Prague CTK in English 1936 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Prague Nov 8 (CTK)—An agreement on ensuring business trips of Czechoslovak Army members to the FRG and West German Army members to Czechoslovakia was signed here today by Bundeswehr supervising staff department head Major-General Klaus Naumann and Major-General Jiri Jindra, Czechoslovak Defence Ministry foreign affairs administration chief.

The agreement was signed at the end of two-day talks between representatives of the Defence Ministries of the FRG and Czechoslovakia on promotion of cooperation in the future.

Future Immigration, Economic Problems Viewed

LD0811173890 Prague CTK in English 1634 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Prague, 8 Nov (CTK)—Besides its present nationality problem—relation between the Czechs and the Slovaks and relation to minorities—Czechoslovakia will have to tackle one more problem in the near future—immigration in consequence of the planned opening of borders by the Soviet Union.

Sociologists and ethnographers told a news conference here today that this will cause considerable troubles in Czechoslovakia where economic problems are expected in the future. Re-emigration from the Ukraine and Romania is expected as there are areas inhabited by people of Czech and Slovak origin. In the Soviet Union there are some 35,000 Czechs and about 5,000 Slovaks living at present, and in Romania some 8,000 Czechs and 22,000 Slovaks.

There are almost 10 million Czechs and almost five million Slovaks living now in Czechoslovakia. There are some 600,000 Hungarians, 70,000 Poles, almost 50,000 Ukrainians and Ruthenes and 50,000 Germans. As to Romanies (gypsies), they were not considered a minority under the previous regime. They had nationality which they chose - Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, etc. Their number is estimated at 700,000 to 800,000. These numbers will most probably change after a census of the population next March.

Out of the ethnic groups living on Czechoslovak territory, the number of Germans has decreased most - from 86,000 in 1970 to 61,000 in 1980. This is mainly due to their old age and their minimum reproduction. Only five per cent of Germans marry a German while within the Polish minority and the Ukrainians it is 25 per cent. If a child is born to a mixed pair in the German community, its nationality is chosen according to the place where its parents live. More people, even those with German forefathers, are expected to regard themselves Germans in the upcoming census of the population in March 1991.

Iraq's Offer of Cheap Oil Reportedly Rejected

LD1211102690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungrian 1000 GMT 12 Nov

[Text] Iraq has offered Hungary cheap crude oil in exchange for weapons and food. According to reports in Cairo papers, President Saddam Husayn has tried to get several Eastern European states to infringe the United Nations embargo. According to a report citing Baghdad opposition sources, Hungary has rejected the offer.

Ministry Denies Report of Oil Offer

LD1211120490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] [Announcer] While we were on the air, we received news that the Ministry of International Economic Relations denies the Cairo report that we broadcast saying that Iraq has recently offered Hungary cheap mineral oil in exchange for weapons and food.

[Second Announcer] A competent official said that the Hungarian authorities had been contacted from Baghdad two months ago, but the essence of the proposal was that Iraq would pay all of its $145 million debt, instead of the $18 million due this year, and that it would do this in the form of mineral oil delivery. This, however, was rejected by the Hungarian side because of the Security Council embargo, as was the Iraqi request for food purchases which was submitted at the same time.

MSZMP Seeks To Promote Joint PRC Relations

LD1011014490 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] The chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] is willing to place his experiences in the PRC at the disposal of the government. MSZMP Chairman Gyula Thurmer also offered to help the government develop relations with the PRC.

The MSZMP is the only Hungarian political party able to come to an understanding with the Soviet and the PRC leadership. We discussed the possibilities for international left-wing solidarity with Chairman Gyula Thurmer by way of justification for his visit to the PRC. It is necessary to expand relations, although the Beijing leadership watches our country with concern. In their view, our country could become the point of departure for a hotbed of tension in Eastern Europe.

The task of the MSZMP, as the largest nonparliamentary opposition party, is to strengthen Hungarian-PRC economic-political relations. The PRC of today is not the same as the PRC of 10 years ago, or that of last year's massacre, we heard.

The MSZMP raised the possibility of a world meeting of left-wing forces, along the lines of next week's exchange of views in Moscow of the Eastern European communist and socialist parties.

MSZMP Chairman on PRC Visit

LD1011204690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1505 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Report on interview with MSZMP (Hungarian Socialist Workers Party) Gyula Thurmer by Janos Hollos; place and date not given—recorded; from the "168 Hours" program]

[Text] [Announcer] MSZMP Chairman Gyula Thurmer, who was received at a high level in the homeland of socialism with a human face—his formulation—arrived back from China yesterday. He was interviewed by Janos Hollos.

[Thurmer] There was no police motorcade and no great wreath-laying ceremonies; we had a modest, but decent reception. I was received by the highest leaders of the Communist Party of China [CPC], the secretary general, and several leaders of the Central Committee and the Consultative Committee. They received me in line with the way they think about Hungary and the MSZMP. They see the MSZMP as the most marked and organized force of the left wing in Hungary. We agreed on regular inter-party consultation, and cooperation between SZABADSAG and RENMIN RIBAO.

A great deal is known about Hungary there. For example, the taxis drivers' strike was known to everyone in China, from the general secretary to our hotel porter. In China they worry a great deal about us—that thousands, tens of thousands, possible even hundreds of thousands can appear on the streets, forces which today in Hungary no political force can control. They worry that if the creation of political stability does not succeed Hungary could become one of the points of tension in Eastern Europe.

[Hollos] Does the CPC—which is today possibly the strongest communist party in the world—want to utilize its hegemony and try to direct the MSZMP?

[Thurmer] We completely agreed that both parties must work as sovereign national parties. They have not attempted to influence our activity in any way.

Regarding international life, I think that we agreed on the most important issue. They do not consider the Eastern European processes complete, and they feel that socialism is not yet lost in this region. They do not consider China the only center of revolution; indeed, they think that the forces of the left exist in various parts of the world.

We also think that there is need for a humane socialism in China; it is possible to meet this. We should finally reach the stage to try to put aside what happened a year or 15 years ago. A new leadership exists here, they try new methods and I think not without complete success. They see an extreme left solution in Hungary as inconceivable.

Goncz Statement on Hungarians in Romania

LD0911233990 Budapest MTI in English 1808 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, November 9 (MTI)—The Hungarian Democratic Federation of Romania [Democratic Association of Hungarians in Romania] forms a unified force within that country. We cannot suggest anything to them, however, we can support and emphasize their requests, said the president of the Republic of Hungary, Arpad Goncz in a statement to "ALOSAG", a Hungarian weekly in Romania.

Hungarians living in Romania, by their part played in the revolution, won the right and responsibility to be the master and not the victim of their own fate, President Goncz said.

As regards the Romanian minority living in Hungary, he stated:

"We do not look upon minorities living in Hungary as hostages, hoping that the Hungarian minority in Romania will not be regarded as hostages, either. Minority rights in the 20th century are indispensable conditions for the realization of human rights. The use of the mother tongue, for example, is a right that should be codified...

"I know there are problems in our country as well as elsewhere. I am also aware of our duty, that if we want to be a part of Europe we have to grant these rights to our ethnic minorities, independently of the results we achieve for the Hungarian minorities in other countries."

Speaking about the rights of the Hungarian minority living in Romania, President Goncz said, those were not privileges, but formed part and parcel of universal human rights, including freedom of religion, speech and press, the use of the mother tongue, the right to education, artistic expression and the granting of permanent relations with the parent country.

"The best we can do for Hungarians living in Transylvania, is to create a Hungary that enjoys a good reputation abroad, with a free culture that can guarantee the rights for its own minorities," President Goncz concluded.

Antall Meets International Trade Union Delegation

LD1011013790 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Jozsef Antall received today the delegation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions visiting our country.

The delegation, which is headed by the general secretary, is examining the interest protection situation in Hungary and visited the National Association of Hungarian Trade Unions and Vasas [sports club]. [passage omitted]

Western Economic Aid Discussed

LD1011112690 Budapest MTI in English 1026 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Budapest, November 9 (MTI)—Prime Minister Jozsef Antall on Friday in parliament received a delegation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) headed by Secretary General John Vanderveken.

Also present in the delegation were Lane Kirkland, president of the American AFL-CIO and Bogdan Lis, president of Solidarity of Poland.

In the course of the meeting, John Vanderveken said that the ICFTU was ready to help Hungarian trade unions in the process of restructuring and would call upon Western governments to more effectively support the transformation of the economy in Hungary.

The 14-member delegation of ICFTU on Friday met leaders of the National Association of Hungarian Trade Unions (MSZOSZ) and a few branch us. [sentence as received]

At the meeting, MSZOSZ President Sandor Nagy spoke about the current consultation mechanism of Hungarian TU's, the work of the so-called "TU round table".

German Television Broadcasts From Pecs

LD1111203190 Budapest MTI in English 1736 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Budapest, November 10 (MTI)—The Deutsche Welle German television company began broadcasting its East European television magazine programme in Hungary, the first country in the region. The first programme of the 30-minute series, aired every two weeks, was aired from Pecs, southern Hungary, on Saturday, and was also seen on the central programme (channel one) of Hungarian Television.

Deutsche Welle intends the "European revolving stage" programme to mediate themes of interest to the people living in Eastern Europe, including economic, social and political information related to the building of the European house. The German television company will continue to prepare the programme in cooperation with the Pecs district office and minority studio of Hungarian Television. The Hungarian sub-titles for the German-language programme are also prepared in Pecs.

Pozsgay Submits Resignation Letter to MSZP

LD1011114490 Budapest MTI in English 1034 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Budapest, November 9 (MTI)—Imre Pozsgay addressed a letter to the Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) [MSZP] explaining his resignation. The letter was read out and discussed on Friday, first day of the congress behind closed doors.

In the letter, Pozsgay wrote:

"On November 7, I informed the national Presidency of the HSP of my wish to resign, giving up all my party duties: the vice presidency, membership of the presidential board and leadership of the parliamentary faction.

"My decision...is not due to any personal conflicts or reasons... I took this step because of political and moral considerations. ...I was the one to take the blame for wanting to preserve my power and to create a successor party, in spite of having the fewest reasons to do so."

(Imre Pozsgay, a leader of the one-time Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, worked a great deal to dismantle the party state and to create a multi-party democracy.)

"Going through four elections with my comrades I have sacrificed a good deal of my reputation. I sincerely undertook this ordeal even if with diminishing personal ambitions and facing criticism from some of my comrades, because I wished the socialists to become a genuine national force in the delayed restructuring process. In the meantime I fought against the impatience of my comrades wanting to rid themselves of the general bad atmosphere in which they found themselves, I fought the desire to return to power of those not being able to admit defeat.

"I do not mind belonging to a minority or suffering defeat, from time to time. The trouble is, it indicates that I am not in the proper place. ...Most parliamentary parties consist many parts but I cannot find a place for myself in any of these.

"I feel uncertain because—with some parties consisting of more than one party—I cannot see a national centre representing the interests of the nation as a whole, either in parliament or anywhere else.

"I do not blame the HSP or any other party but I do blame the present system of parties which could not win the confidence of the majority of the people in Hungary which is now drifting towards a grave crisis.

"I am sure that socialists must get rid of the communist tradition depriving party members of a personality of their own. A party lacking individuals has no strength... It is freedom that makes it possible for one to make decisions based on one's convictions, that is ethical decisions."

In the next part of his letter, Pozsgay lays out the reasons why he did not explain his resignation personally:

"I wanted to avoid the appearance of being interested in a break within the party. I did not want to unfurl a banner and recruit supporters at the congress...

"I'll go on working as an independent MP... I wish the congress success, hoping to preserve values created during a long-time relationship and to continue cooperation for saving our crisis-ridden Hungary," Imre Pozsgay concluded.

Socialist Party Begins Congress 9 Nov

Pozsgay Resignation Discussed

LD1011100490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Erno Kardos report on the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP) Congress on 9 November; place not given]

[Excerpts] [Kardos] During the debate preceding the congress, the issue most loudly argued by the delegates was whether the letter from Imre Pozsgay, in which he gives reasons for his departure, should be discussed at an open or a closed session. [passage omitted]

He writes that it was through an analysis of the direction of the party's activities that he reached a stage where he was not able, with a clear conscience, to accept party membership. His departure should not be traced back to personal reasons but rather, in Pozsgay's view, because a new, but still Hungarian, socialist party has not been created.

The Socialists have not become a real national force in the increasingly delayed reconstruction, but have panicked, finding that being out of power is difficult to take. Pozsgay writes that it was for this reason that he, too, was forced to be impatient and run the gauntlet. He now feels that he no longer has any problems with the MSZP or with the other parties, but he feels that he cannot find his own place in the party system which has evolved.

As he wishes to avoid even the appearance of a possible party split, or an attempt to that end, he does not want to participate in the congress which is to start in the afternoon. [passage omitted]

Interestingly, Rezso Nyers was also absent from the congress. It is claimed that he will arrive tomorrow.

By the way, 86 percent of the 435 delegates are already here. The keynote speech by national Secretary Imre Szekeres was listened to by 376 people. In his speech, he pointed out that the forces of the left are in a state of dispersion in Hungary. He explained this by the fact that almost every left-wing party—precisely because of their past—failed to win significant returns in the elections. He also called attention to the fact that at this point it is useless to still dwell on the past. He emphasized that those who want to do this should write memoirs.

The evolving and strengthening right wing can, in any case, give new impetus to the parties representing left-wing values. [passage omitted]

Horn Views Poszgay Resignation

LD1011201990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1505 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Interview with Hungarian Socialist Party Chairman [MSZP] Gyula Horn by Erno Kardos; place and date not given—recorded; from the "168 Hours" program]

[Excerpt] [Horn] [passage omitted] At the closed session of the congress last night, I said that this step [Pozsgay's resignation] did not surprise us very much in the final analysis. During recent months, Imre Pozsgay has been suffering (?some kind of) inner troubles, but I would not describe it as an identity [crisis]. These troubles could be felt in his work to some degree; his activity declined somewhat and he became more introverted. He must have been thinking a lot; I would not rule out self-reproach either. There have been signs that he could not find a place for himself.

[Kardos] At the same time, it is also true that at a meeting in Budapest, you had strongly criticized the work of the parliamentary wing, and it may be said that behind the leader of the wing, you have, in a sense, reorganized the wing. This might have meant that, in a sense, Imre Pozsgay felt himself unnecessary as the leader of the MSZP parliamentary faction, and it is possible that his distancing from the party also originated from this.

[Horn] This is out of the question. There was not a single issue relating to the parliamentary wing which we would not have debated at Presidium sessions. The Presidium has had placed on the agenda several times during recent months that the work of the faction is not satisfactory, it is unorganized, the views are not expressed powerfully enough. The faction's work has been greatly criticized by members as well as by our suporters throughout the country. It is obvious that if the work of the parliamentary wing is poor, or unacceptable for our sympathizers, then it is the leader who is responsible before everybody else.

None of these things, however, was discussed behind his back.

[Kardos] It is being said that a kind of Horn putsch was being prepared, and therefore Imre Pozsgay left his post voluntarily before being pushed.

[Horn] Out of the question. There has been no conflict within the party. The party did not want him to go. His political analytical ability, his ability to assess, his ability as a speaker, his manifestations were extraordinarily useful for the party—and we have respected his ideas throughout. [passage omitted]

Gal Named Interim Faction Leader

LD1011202190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Excerpt] At the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] Congress it has been decided that Zoltan Gal should head the party's parliamentary faction for the time being. His mandate will be effective until someone is elected to succeed Imre Pozsgay, who resigned his party membership. [passage omitted]

Szekeres Elected Vice Chairman

LD1011014990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2300 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Imre Szekeres, until now national secretary, has been elected to replace Imre Pozsgay as vice chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP]. [passage omitted]

At the closing session of the MSZP Congress, MSZP Chairman Gyula Horn declared that Pozsgay's decision was unexpected but has not caused surprise, because the leader of this wing has tolerated with difficulty the attacks on the party since October of last year.

The congress did not discuss the parliamentary mandate of Pozsgay because, according to the consultation, it is an affair between the people of Bacs County and Imre Pozsgay.

Horn Views Economy, Party Ties

LD1111182190 Budapest MTI in English 1713 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Budapest, November 10 (MTI)—On Saturday, the second day of the congress of the Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) [MSZP], in progress in Siofok, party President Gyula Horn said there is one power factor that operates in a stable manner in Hungary at present, and that is the Hungarian parliament. At the same time, the operation of parliament is justly criticized, as the activity of the MPs is mainly motivated by party interests.

According to Mr Horn, the professional preparedness and conception readiness of the members of the government are also lacking. He termed the change in style of the government, which was also promised by the prime minister, to be promising.

Discussing the current economic situation, Mr Horn said that significant social strata are placed in a hopeless situation. This is not definitely an accompanying element of the switch to a market economy, he said. The reason for this is that the economic processes have broken loose and have become unmanageable. In this context, the president of the HSP again called for a crisis management programme, then noted that the HSP can recommend experts to help stabilize the economy and create a market economy.

With respect to the relation between the HSP and the other parties, Mr Horn said: The Socialist Party will not give up its sovereignty.

It became unanimously clear at the HSP Congress that the forum does not intend to take a position in the matter of Imre Pozsgay's mandate to parliament. They believe this should be left to the voters in Bacs-Kiskun County, as Pozsgay won a seat in parliament on their list.

The HSP has forwarded the following communique to MTI:

"The parliamentary group of the Hungarian Socialist Party held a session in Siofok on November 10. It acknowledged the resignation of Imre Pozsgay from his function as head of the parliamentary group, and expressed its gratitude for his activity so far. Until the election of the leader of the HSP parliamentary group, Zoltan Gal, deputy leader of the group, has been authorized to see to the tasks arising from this function."

Congress Ends, Declarations Approved

LD1111212590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Erno Kardos report on the documents approved at the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP) Congress in Siofok; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Kardos] [passage omitted] The second congress of the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] approved a declaration urging the halting of inflation as soon as possible. They would like to transform the ownership situation in such a way that as many people as possible become owners. Relations with the Soviet Union must be settled and relations with the West must be developed, said the declaration. It also calls on employees to create their own organization which can present their common views.

The MSZP can renew itself with a social democratic program, said Ivan Vitanyi.

MSZP Chairman Gyula Horn added that now is not the time to unfold the banners of ideologies, but to answer urgent questions of relaties. What must be decided urgently is how to change over to a socialist market economy in such a way that economic and social crisis management is not neglected. The majority declared the congress successful because new operational rules and a new program have been approved, and Zoltan Gal has been temporarily elected as leader of the parliamentary faction of the socialists.

SZDSZ Leader Calls For Government Reshuffle

LD0811131790 Budapest MTI in English 1112 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Budapest, November 8 (MTI)—The alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) [SZDSZ] is of the opinion that a considerable reshuffling of the Hungarian Government is necessary, retaining, however, the present form of the coalition, said president of the AFD, Janos Kis in Bonn. Kis is heading a delegation visiting Bonn at the invitation of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

Concepts of a grand coalition or a government of national unity are mere speculations at the moment, Janos Kis added.

The president of the AFD also stated that his party's reaction to the crisis in Hungary ten days ago had been commensurate with the gravity of the situation, just as president of the Republic Arpad Goncz's appeal had been in keeping with the Constitution.

Kis said the most dangerous moment had occurred at the beginning when the government of Premier Jozsef Antall had only been concentrating on the issue as to whether the demonstration was lawful. Thus, when they came to the conclusion that the protest was illegal, they refused to sit down at the negotiating table.

Such crises should be averted, but if they emerge, they should be resolved by political means. The danger of aggressive intervention had been looming, posing a threat for democracy, Janos Kis told Hungarian journalists at a press briefing.

Antall Predicts Change of Government

LD0911132190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpts] A change of government will take place before the end of the year. This was announced by Prime Minister Jozsef Antall at a government spokesman's news briefing.

To dispel the various rumors and speculations, the prime minister published a statement of 12 points. According to this, a major coalition between the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] and the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ] is not going to take place. There is no such idea among the plans, said Jozsef Antall, who said it is a fabrication to suppose that certain Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] members will be included in the new government.

The statement also says that Imre Pozsgay's departure from his party is a matter for the MSZP and Pozsgay. The prime minister also confirmed that the work of good professionals employed in the administration is also necessary in the future, and they cannot be removed. [passage omitted]

The government also discussed the employment problems of regions which are in critical situation. Thus, the Szekesfehervar region is to be given 130 million forints from the employment fund, and the Pecs region can count on 500 million forints in support.

The next news mainly affects conscripts presently fulfilling their service. As is known, the period of service was reduced from 18 to 12 months; however, this only applies to those who started their military service by August at the latest. Soldiers, who do not come under this decree, for the time of extra service will be given 5,000 forints in pay instead of 1,000 forints.

The government also decided that, following the gasoline price increase, agriculture and transport companies can count on a certain amount of compensation. Balasz Laszlo also told journalists that the Common Market is to give Hungary another $24 million in aid for the purchase of buying maize.

A week after the taxi drivers' strike, the Interior Ministry also ordered an opinion poll from the public opinion research institute concerning the popularity of the government. According to this report, 36 percent of those asked still have trust in the government, 25 percent have more trust than before, and 41 percent said that their faith in the government has decreased.

Antall Issues Statement on Domestic Policy

LD1011064390 Budapest MTI in English 1724 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Budapest, November 9 (MTI)—Addressing the international news conference after the government session in Budapest on Friday, Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, in an attempt to dispel various rumours, gave a statement on home policy issues and major questions concerning the work of the government.

1) In compliance with his earlier announcement, the prime minister intends to carry out personal changes in the government within his constitutional jurisdiction and naturally through negotiations with appropriate political circles.

2) Another question of crucial importance is the precise formulation and co-ordination of operative schedules, in keeping with the government's programme.

3) The idea of a grand coalition has not come up in any form between the Alliance of Free Democrats and the Hungarian Democratic Forum. There have been no such talks, and the prime minister does not have any [word indistinct] of this kind.

4) Given our commitment to Europeanism, we consider it extremely important for the parties and organizations of Hungary and other countries to be underpinned by extensive systems of relations along the lines of the European party policy structures. All three parties of the government coalition are members of the relevant European and international organizations. We believe this would also be important for other parties from the national point of view, but this is obviously a matter for them to decide on.

5) Rumours that the prime minister would like to involve the Hungarian Socialist Party or some of its members in the government are totally groundless.

6) Imre Pozsgay's withdrawal from the Hungarian Socialist Party is the affair of Pozsgay and the party. Any hints at relations deviating from the generally accepted operations of a governmental opposition, or at any party political links with the Hungarian Democratic Forum, are also unfounded. Naturally this may also concern other parties or political groups. Imre Pozsgay is a prominent personality in Hungarian political life.

7) The government coalition aspires to co-operate in a constructive manner with the opposition parties in parliament, as it does, under different conditions and in a different set-up, in the local governments for the good of the country. Moreover, we are intent on establishing far-reaching professional and consultative co-operation with other forces as well, mainly as regards economic policy.

8) We ascribe great importance to satisfactory co-operatioon between the three coalition parties, and the opposition parties on certain matters, as well as regular consultation with all six parties.

9) The relationship between the government and the opposition has to be clearly defined in the country's interest. I have always regarded even the hardest critical line represented by the Federation of Young Democrats as constructive and useful because its leaders formulate their opinions in a professional, law-abiding and constitutional manner, mindful of the values of European and North American liberalism.

10) The government's cooperation with the employers' and employees' organizations within the consultative interest coordination council is highly important.

11) It is relevant to improve the standard of administration in the public sector. However, this in no way means the unjustified removal of recognised public servants, as, quite to the contrary, we rely on their work and loyalty. The political reshuffle (minister, political state secretary, and so on) should not be confused with the problems of restructuring the state mechanism in any country.

12) The government will be reshuffled, in connection with other political events, as early as this year in the interest of efficient operation. The prime minister, both as head of government and party president, will necessarily continue to maintain contact with the leaders of the various political parties, the parliamentary group leaders and others besides.

Spokesman Denies Antall Suffering From Leukemia

LD1111193290 Budapest MTI in English 1754 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Budapest, November 11 (MTI)—Government Spokesman Balazs Laszlo on Sunday informed MTI about the following:

Misleading reports have been carried by the world press over the past few days regarding the health condition of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall. On the basis of the American AP news agency, certain dailies reported, without basis, that the Hungarian prime minister is suffering from leukemia.

The government spokesman thus holds it necessary to set down the following:

As the official medical report made public on November 7, 1990, stated, the prime minister is in the initial stage of an illness of the lymphatic system, the so-called Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The medical report also noted that this illness can be successfully treated.

The prime minister enjoys perfect health.

The spokesman also said that Prime Minister Antall has, for the past week, worked in accordance to his work schedule prior to the operation. On Thursday, for instance, he again chaired the 10-hour session of government.

'Titular' Secretary of State Appointed

LD0711220190 Budapest MTI in English 1716 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Budapest, November 7 (MTI)—The government spokesman's office has announced that Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic, at the proposal of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, has appointed Gyula Kodolanyi, head of the prime minister's advisory board, as titular secretary of state to act on behalf of the prime minister in matters of foreign liaison. The appointment is effective from November 6, 1990.

National Assembly Holds Session 12 Nov

LD1311121290 Budapest MTI in English 1036 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Budapest, November 12 [date as received] (MTI)—In its Monday session, parliament decided to urgently discuss a bill for the acceptance of membership in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The MPs [members of parliament] approved an amendment to the decree on the position of full-time professionals in the Armed Forces. The new regulation strengthens the "civilian nature" of the Home Office. For instance, it stipulates that the posts of the chief and deputy commissioners of the police force should be filled through open competitions.

Parliament amended the law on social security, repealing the paragraph that those who had served for the required 20 years but interrupted it for more than five years are not entitled to a pension.

The plenary session will resume on Tuesday.

Party Leaders View Government Legislation

LD0811114690 Budapest MTI in English 1042 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Budapest, November 7 (MTI)—In the government's opinion, the main laws ensuring that the Hungarian economy keeps its head above water can be passed before the end of this year, but only if parliament pulls out all the stops. However, the opposition is sceptical that all the bills submitted by the government can be discussed, even if the process is speeded up.

Leader of the Parliamentarty Faction of the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) [MDF], Imre Konya, told MTI that the government has divided the bills into three categories. The first consists of bills concerning the budget and economy. The second includes bills on local administrations and the third group comprises those that cannot be classified but which must be discussed urgently.

Faction leader of the Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) [SZDSZ], Ivan Peto, said that the parliamentary parties have agreed that the government's plans are unrealistic. They are asking for a further reduction in the number of bills and more appropriate pacing.

MSZP Financial Expert on Privatization, Debt

LD1211011690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2100 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Interview with Hungarian Socialist Party financial expert Laszlo Bekesi by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In his speech on the second day of the congress, Gyula Horn said that the country, the government, should ask for the rescheduling of debts, or for interest relief. Laszlo Bekesi, who is sitting next to me, groaned and said this is the private opinion of the party chairman. As an explanation, he added that a preparatory plan is indeed in Western Europe which could lead to the easing of credit terms. This is precisely the subject of my discussion with financial expert Laszlo Bekesi.

[Bekesi] Within the privatization which is to take place in Hungary, there could be an arrangement by which the involvement of foreign capital could be achieved by the changing of the level of debts. There are internationally accepted mechanisms for this. It would mean that part of the accummulated net debts of $15-16 billion could be handed over to foreign capital investors; this would reduce debt interests and would reduce the burden of capital repayment, so the results would be the same as what Gyula Horn talked about. What we must be very careful about, however, is that such an international idea, which is in a rather embryonic stage, should not create the impression that a significant Hungarian political force is thinking about the rescheduling of the debts. This would immediately lower the country's credit rating; there is no question of this.

[Correspondent] Am I to understand from this that you are disputing with the president of the MSZP—that perhaps there are conflicting views within the presidium?

[Bekesi] There is no question of this, I think that the term that Gyula Horn used in his speech for expressing a very well-intentioned aim was not a fortunate one. The question of moratorium is rather a dangerous matter. If he added what preliminary international initiatives are involved in here, the fate of which are still uncertain, I am sure there would have been no cause for misunderstanding.

[Correspondent] You mentioned this program which would provide the prospect of certain easing of the situation. In your opinion when could this be realized?

[Bekesi] If we manage to get together the planned $15-18 billion capital, which would be necessary for this program to start for the countries of Central Europe, then perhaps from 1992 Hungary could also start to enjoy the benefits of this.

Walesa Speaks on Reform at Lodz Rally

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[Text] No reform has really been started; it is a repairing of socialism, the holding of things together with safety pins, Lech Walesa stated at a meeting with members of the Regional Solidarity Board in Lodz. I want real reform, he added. I am counting on your support, but as a president I would not [word indistinct] the union of the nation, as the nation elects the president. The main point of the electoral visit by Walesa in Lodz was a rally in the sports hall. The Solidarity chairman also included Lodz in the cities which should have a breath of fresh air, but he did not develop that theme.

Criticizing the government's activity, he confirmed that he wanted to make a broad privatization possible and within five years return to the public a minimum of 60 percent of Poland. He went on to say that there could not be collective responsibility, but everything should be honestly and fairly accounted for.

In answer to a question about anti-Semitism Walesa said: That game harms Poland. He emphasized that he did not intend to make great changes in the government if he becomes president and he would wait for the democratic elections of a new parliament.

The whole rally was punctuated with an appeal for a considered decision on the election of the president. It is not a question of Walesa or Mazowiecki, but it is a question of the shape of Poland for many many years, Walesa said.

Assailants Vandalize Walesa's Katowice Office

LD0911153290 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1500 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] During the night, unknown assailants smashed windows and destroyed equipment in Lech Walesa's Katowice election office. At the moment, the First Police Commissariat in Katowice is conducting investigations at the site of the incident. For the moment, we have not established anything which would allow us to ascertain whether this was an incident motivated by politics or by hooliganism.

Poll Says Walesa Leads in Presidential Race

LD1011181190 Warsaw PAP in English 1720 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Warsaw, Nov 10—The public opinion polling institute OBOP questionnaired a randomly selected representative group of 1,000 adults on November 5-6 over their options in connection with the upcoming presidential elections in Poland. This was the first opinion survey held after a full week of the official election campaign in the radio and TV.

The group declaring the intention to go to the polls had the following structure:

Going to Vote For:	Percent
Lech Walesa	41
Tadeusz Mazowiecki	23
Stanislaw Tyminski	8
Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz	7
Roman Bartoszcze	4
Leszek Moczulski	2
Undecided	15

The distance between Walesa and Mazowiecki grew during the week, and Tyminski moved up to the third place.

Mazowiecki Continues Campaign in Katowice

LD0911234290 Warsaw PAP in English 2204 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Warsaw, Nov 9—Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki began his presidential campaign in the Katowice region by meeting with the academic milieu and residents of Katowice at the Silisian University.

"I think that Poland has a great chance of not only returning to Europe but constructing European architecture, provided however that it will be a stable and accountable country, thus influencing the development of events in Central and Eastern European countries. Were the evolutionary development to lose balance, there is a danger of various conflicts resurfacing and of a Balkanization of this part of Europe."

During the meeting at the university, the prime minister referred to the issue of the German minority. "We will treat it in keeping with human rights treaties and we will respect all European standards in this respect. We want the minorities to be loyal to the Polish state and to conduct their activities in precisely this spirit. The German minority in Poland cannot be an extension of the union of the resettled," the presidential hopeful pointed out.

Mazowiecki said boosting inter-regional and border region cooperation was an important element of Polish-German relations. "We do not want the Polish-German border to be a border dividing Europe into a rich and poor one," he said adding that the key objective of Poland's foreign policy was to have this division overcome within 10 years.

Meets With Katowice Government

LD1011202490 Warsaw PAP in English 1848 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Katowice, Nov. 10—"By taking part in this meeting I want to stress the special position occupied by upper Silesia on the map of Poland," said Prime Minister Mazowiecki to the extraordinary meeting of

Katowice province's self-government today. The meeting was chiefly dealing with problems of the region and its prospects.

The delegates noted that from their point of view the policy of the present government was not much different from that pursued in upper Silesia in the past decades.

Prime Minister Mazowiecki said that the progressing degradation of Silesia must be halted for there will be no healthy Poland without a healthy Silesia. But this needs time, resources, and a good programme that should be designed inf cooperation with the government, and the self-government of the Silesian region, he added.

Mazowiecki Speaks at Independence Day Ceremony

LD1111131590 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1127 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Speech by Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki at Independence Day ceremony in Pilsudski Square, in Warsaw—live]

[Text] Esteemed gathering! [Words indistinct] there are special times in the life of every nation, linking people with strong ties of unity, and linking whole generations. Such a date is undoubtedly November 11, Independence Day. In the life of every nation, there are special places which focus the nation in a natural way at important and consequential moments. The tomb of the unknown soldier is such a place. Today, we add yet one more to the great experiences that tie Poles to this place—the participation of all of us in the ceremony associated with restoring on the tomb of the unknown soldier the historic plaques removed in the 1940's in the manner that was ruthless and humiliating to our national dignity. The plaques restored today commemorate the effort and sacrifice of Polish soldiers in the years of struggle for regaining and strengthening independence after 123 years of partition. We honor the memory of those who won independence 72 years ago. We simultaneously direct our thoughts not only to the past, but also to our continuing struggle for Poland, to the future of the nation and the state.

Those events are an important point of reference for us, and a significant source of faith in the success of our contemporary struggle. For over a year, we have been realizing the vision of Poland as an independent and democratic state. Rejecting revolutionary methods, we have carried out utterly revolutionary changes in our system. Simultaneously, we are carrying on a stubborn and difficult struggle for the economic foundation of independence. I trust that in the name of that which we have already achieved and in the name of the goals toward which we are moving, we will be able to rise above divisions and continue to implement the great task of transforming Poland. Standing before the tomb of the unknown soldier on Independence Day, seeing the veterans gathered here and the serried ranks of the Polish Army, it is difficult not to consider also the place of our Army in the transformations that are taking place. Resting its hopes on the building of a European system of security, and seeking the arrangement of good relations with all our neighbors, the government places before the Polish Army the task of assuring the freedom and sovereignty that we have succeeded in winning through the joint struggle of the whole nation. As in all spheres of our life, significant changes are taking place in the Army. The Army is taking its place in a state that is democratic and sovereign. The restoration of the four historic plaques on the tomb of the unknown soldier has a symbolic significance—it is important for all of us, and especially for the Polish Army. It eloquently testifies to the fact that, reaching for the traditions that have been passed by before, of the legions and of the war of 1920, the Polish Army is again finding itself in the mainstream of national traditions. This also constitutes an important step forward in the process of the reconstruction of our sovereignty.

Independence today has come to us differently than it did then. We saw it not in the course of one day, as the generation of 11 November did. It came in a longer process of events, but this is the same regained value, which we must treasure, defend, and strengthen, for our own good and for the good of future generations. We wish that Poland, independent and democratic, will bring with it a contribution to the new architecture of Europe, resting on the reconciliation and coexistence of nations, especially our neighbors. We want our country, overcoming difficulties, to become in a short period of time a country that is prosperous and economically resilient, for this determines the significance and future of a nation in today's world. We want our culture, which was so many times decisive for Polish identity in difficult times, to remain the bearer of all those values, human, national and Christian, that decide its significance. We want, finally, the state, already independent and democratic, to be swathed in respect, as a civil state, our own state, whose fate, difficulties and hopes everyone identifies with.

Historical memory is a collective value. The plaques restored today speak of this memory. Historical memory is also a force obliging responsibility for the present day and for the future. In the name of the government of the republic, I pay respect today to the memory of all those whose armed struggle the plaques mounted in this grave commemorate. In the name of the government of the republic, I also express faith in our future, in our joint feeling of responsibility for the present day, and for the future of the nation and the state.

Farmers' Union Supports Bartoszcze Candidacy

LD0911234690 Warsaw PAP in English 2105 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Warsaw, Nov.—The main board of the National Union of Farmers' Circles and Farming Organizations, the most powerful nationwide farmer's organization in Poland, has extended its support for the presidential bid of Roman Bartoszcze, the leader of the Polish Peasant Party [PSL].

In a stand adopted unanimously, the board advises members of farming circles, rural housewives' circles and local and regional structures of the union to actively join in the presidential campaign of the PSL leader. It also appealed for the countryside to unite during the presidential elections and cease protest actions in that period. This stance was supported by representatives of the All-Polish Peasant's Protest Committee present at the meeting.

In the second part of the debates, the main board demanded that the government provisions of the agrarian policy be presented as soon as possible. It adopted a stand pointing out that they should be presented to the union for opining so that they could be tabled to Sejm debates on the state budget.

Presidential Candidates Differ Over TV Debate

LD0911155490 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1500 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Statements have been published with the following text:

The election headquarters of presidential candidates Roman Bartoszcze, Wlodzimier Cimoszewicz, Leszek Moczulski, Stanislaw Tyminski, and Lech Walesa state that no success was achieved in reaching an agreement regarding a televised debate. The reason for this is the stance taken by Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki's headquarters, which does not allow candidates to the office of president of the Polish Republic to engage in a joint discussion during a televised debate, which was to have taken place on 18 November at 2000 [1900 GMT] in the First Program. In connection with this, Tadeusz Mazowiecki's election headquarters has called an extraordinary press conference. We will inform you of the details in the next "Wiadomosci" program.

* Law Regulating Presidential Elections Published

91EP0062Z Warsaw DZIENNIK USTAW in Polish No 67, 2 Oct 90, Item No. 398 pp 933-940

[Law, Item No. 398, dated 27 September 1990, governing the election of the President of the Republic of Poland]

[Text]

Chapter 1.
General Principles

Article 1. This Decree defines the guidelines and procedure for electing the President of the Republic of Poland.

Article 2.1. The elections are universal; the right to vote belongs to every Polish citizen who has completed 18 years of age on Election Day.

2.2. The right to vote also applies to persons whose Polish citizenship has not been established, but who are not citizens of another country, if they have resided in the Polish Republic for at least five years.

Article 3. The right to vote does not belong to persons who are:

1) Deprived of their public rights by a lawful court ruling.

2) Deprived of their voting rights by a ruling of the Tribunal of State.

3) Declared totally or partially incapacitated by a lawful court ruling owing to mental illness or mental retardation.

Article 4. The elections are equal, voters participate in the elections on equal principles.

Article 5. The elections are direct: the voters elect the President directly and only in person.

Article 6. The elections are held by secret balloting; the voting premises must contain a screened-off space assuring secrecy of balloting; the ballot is cast into a sealed voting urn.

Article 7. The elections are ordered by the Speaker of the Sejm, not earlier than four months and not later than three months before the term of office of the current President expires, and in the event the office of the President is vacated, not later than on the 14th day since it is vacated.

Article 8.1. The order for the elections of the President fixes the Election Day on a legal holiday that falls within 60 days from the date the elections are ordered.

8.2. The order also specifies the electoral timetable, with deadlines for the implementation of discrete electoral activities.

8.3. The order is published in DZIENNIK USTAW RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ not later than on the seventh day after it is issued.

Chapter 2.
Electoral Commissions

Article 9. To conduct the elections, the following commissions are appointed:

1) The State Electoral Commission.

2) The voivodship electoral commissions.

3) The district electoral commissions.

Article 10.1. The duties of the State Electoral Commission are:

1) Supervising the adherence to provisions of the electoral law.

2) Registering candidates for the Presidency and announcing data on the candidates named on the electoral list.

3) Ordering the printing of ballots.

4) Appointing voivodship electoral commissions.

5) Considering complaints about the activities of the voivodship electoral commissions.

6) Determining the results of the balloting and of elections of the President.

7) Announcing the results of the balloting and of elections of the President.

8) Presenting a report on the elections to the National Assembly.

10.2. In implementing the duties referred to in Paragraph 1 the State Electoral Commission provides, as the need arises, guidelines and clarifications to the electoral commissions.

Article 11. The duties of the voivodship electoral commission are:

1) Supervising the adherence to provisions of the electoral law by district electoral commissions.

2) Assuring the organization of elections on the area of the voivodship in cooperation with the voivode and gmina [township] boards.

3) Appointing district electoral commissions.

4) Considering complaints about the activities of district electoral commissions.

5) Assuring the provision of ballots to district electoral commissions in the voivodship.

6) Determining the overall results of the balloting for the candidates for the Presidency on the area of the voivodship and transmitting these data, together with the records of district electoral commissions, to the State Electoral Commission.

7) Implementing other duties envisaged in this Decree.

Article 12. The decisions of the State Electoral Commission and the voivodship electoral commissions on the matters referred to in Article 10, Paragraph 1, Points 1 and 5, and Paragraph 2, and in Article 11, Points 1 and 4, are final and binding on the lower-level electoral commissions.

Article 13. The duties of the district electoral commissions are:

1) Conduct of elections in the polling district.

2) Monitoring, on Election Day, the adherence to provisions of electoral law at the polling place and during polling hours.

3) Determining the results of the balloting in the polling district and transmitting these data to the appropriate voivodship electoral commission.

Article 14.1. The State Electoral Commission is appointed by the Speaker of the Sejm within seven days from the date the elections are ordered.

14.2. The membership of the State Electoral Commission consists of:

1) Five justices of the Supreme Court, nominated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

2) Five justices of the Constitutional Tribunal, nominated by the Chief Justice of the Constitutional Tribunal.

3) Five justices of the Supreme Administrative Court, nominated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Administrative Court.

14.3. Within five days from the date of its appointment, the State Electoral Commission elects from within itself a chairman and two to four deputy chairmen, and appoints a commission secretary.

14.4. Data on the composition of the State Electoral Commission are immediately made public and published in DZIENNIK URZEDOWY RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ MONITOR POLSKI.

Article 15.1. The voivodship electoral commissions are appointed by the State Electoral Commission not later than 45 days prior to Election Day.

15.2. Each such commission consists of 10 judges nominated by the minister of justice from among the judges of appellate, voivodship, and district courts designated by the collegiums of these courts.

15.3. Within seven days from the date of their appointment these commissions, meeting in full attendance, elect from among their members a chairman and two vice chairmen and appoint a commission secretary.

15.4. Data on the composition of these commissions are immediately made public in the locally customary manner.

Article 16.1. The district electoral commissions, consisting of seven to 11 members each, are appointed by voivodship electoral commissions from among voters nominated by the concerned gmina [township] councils, not later than 25 days prior to Election Day.

16.2. In the polling districts formed on Polish seagoing ships at sea and on land abroad members of such commissions are appointed from among voters correspondingly by ship captains and consuls. The procedure, rules, and deadlines for appointing these commissions are determined, upon consulting the State Electoral Commission, correspondingly by the minister of transportation and navigation and the minister of foreign affairs.

16.3. Immediately upon their appointment the district electoral commissions meet in full attendance and elect from among their members a chairman, a deputy chairman, and a commission secretary.

Article 17. The State Electoral Commission decides on its own operating rules as well as on the operating rules of voivodship and district electoral commissions, on defining in particular:

1) Commission operating procedures.

2) Ways of exercising supervision over the performance of voivodship and district electoral commissions.

Article 18. The State Electoral Commission determines the:

1) Sample seals of electoral commissions.

2) Sample balloting records.

3) Sample election record.

4) Sample ballot.

Article 19.1. Members of electoral commissions serve on an honorary basis. However, they are entitled to per diem pay and reimbursement of traveling expenses in the amount and by the procedure to be determined by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the State Electoral Commission.

19.2. For the duration of their duties members of electoral commissions may receive unpaid leave from their workplaces; in this event they are entitled to a lump-sum compensation for lost earnings in the amount and by the procedure to be determined by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the State Electoral Commission.

19.3. Members of electoral commissions are entitled to the legal protection provided for civil servants.

Article 20. The State Electoral Commission and the voivodship and district electoral commissions terminate their operations upon executing their legally defined duties.

Article 21.1. Clerical services for the State Electoral Commission are provided by its secretariat.

21.2. Clerical services for the voivodship electoral commissions are furnished by the voivodes.

21.3. Office space, servicing, and organizational and technical resources for the district electoral commissions are provided by the concerned gmina boards as a state-assigned duty.

21.4. The requisites referred to in Paragraph 3 are correspondingly provided by captains of Polish seagoing vessels and by consuls.

Chapter 3.
Electoral Districts

Article 22.1. Polling districts comprising 1,000 to 3,000 inhabitants each are established for the purpose of conducting elections.

22.2. When so warranted by local conditions, polling districts may comprise fewer or more inhabitants than specified in Paragraph 1.

22.3. Polling districts may be established at hospitals, social care homes, penal institutions, and detention sites.

22.4. Polling districts may be established on board Polish seagoing vessels at sea if they contain at least 20 voters and if it is possible to communicate the results of the balloting immediately after poll closure to the proper voivodship electoral commission in consideration of the shipowner's location.

22.5. Polling districts may be established for Polish citizens sojourning on land abroad.

Article 23.1. The numbers and boundaries of polling districts and the addresses of district electoral commissions are determined by the voivodship electoral commission upon the recommendation of the appropriate gmina boards.

23.2. Polling districts on Polish seagoing vessels are established by the proper voivodship electoral commission for the address of the shipowner upon the request of the shipowner, submitted not later than five days before Election Day.

23.3. Polling districts for Polish citizens sojourning on land abroad are established by the minister of foreign affairs in consultation with the State Electoral Commission, upon designating the address of the district electoral commissions. The results of the balloting in these districts are communicated to the voivodship electoral commission in Warsaw.

Article 24.1. Information on the numbers and boundaries of polling districts and on the addresses of district electoral commissions is made public by the appropriate gmina boards by putting up wall posters at least 35 days prior to Election Day.

24.2. The duty referred to in Paragraph 1 applies to consuls as regards the polling districts established abroad.

Chapter 4.
List of Voters

Article 25.1. Persons entitled to vote are entered on the list of voters.

25.2. A voter may be entered on only one list.

Article 26.1. The list of voters contains the names of persons referred to in Article 2 according to their domiciles.

26.2. The list of voters specifies the name, surname, father's name, date of birth, and address of the voter.

26.3. Lists of voters are prepared by gmina boards as a state-assigned duty. The cost of preparing and safekeeping a list and making it available for inspection by voters is defrayed from the State Budget, from its funds earmarked for the elections.

Article 27.1. Two copies of each list are prepared separately for each polling district.

27.2. The first copies of the lists of voters from polling districts are combined and constitute the registry of the voters in a gmina; the registry is kept by the office which prepared the lists.

27.3. The registry of voters is permanent and subject to updating at least once a year.

27.4. Voters have the right to inspect the registry to the extent justified by legal interests.

Article 28.1. The second copies of the lists of voters are destined for the district electoral commissions and serve to conduct the balloting. They are subject to updating in accordance with the guidelines specified by this Decree.

28.2. The copies referred to in Paragraph 1 are transmitted, not later than on the eve of Election Day, to the chairmen of the concerned district electoral commissions.

Article 29. The inister of internal affairs shall determine a sample record of voters and the procedure for preparing and updating lists of voters and keeping and making available for inspection registries of voters.

Article 30.1. Persons deprived of their voting rights are deleted from the list of voters.

30.2. The minister of justice shall define the procedure for transmitting to gmina boards information on the persons referred to in Paragraph 1.

Article 31.1. A voter with no permanent domicile is registered on the list proper for the place of his present sojourn if he submits an appropriate application not later than seven days prior to Election Day.

31.2. The provision of Paragraph 1 applies correspondingly to the persons referred to in Article 2, Paragraph 2.

Article 32.1. Military personnel who perform basic or periodic military service as candidates for professional soldiers, military personnel taking part in exercises and advanced military training, and conscripts who perform their basic military service in civil defense outside their domiciles, are included, upon request, in the list of voters prepared for the locality in which they perform military service. Such requests are submitted 14 to seven days prior to Election Day.

32.2. The provision of Paragraph 1 applies correspondingly to police personnel from units billeted in barracks.

32.3. Commanders of military, civil defense, and police units are dutybound to safeguard the implementation of the rights ensuing from Paragraph 1 by military, civil defense, and police personnel.

32.4. The minister of national defense and the minister of internal affairs shall, in cooperation with the State Electoral Commission, provide corresponding guidelines on the execution of the duties referred to in Paragraph 3.

Article 33. A voter who changes his residence after the list of voters is prepared receives on demand from the office preparing the list an affidavit of his right to vote entitling him to cast a ballot in the district of his residence on Election Day.

Article 34. The office which prepared the list of voters deletes from it the names of the persons:

1) Whom it had issued affidavits of the right to vote.

2) After it is officially notified that these persons are included in the list of voters prepared by another polling district.

Article 35.1. Voters sojourning on Polish seagoing vessels which are at sea during the period from the day the elections are ordered to Election Day are included in the lists of voters prepared by the ship captains.

35.2. The inclusion is performed upon the request of the voter when said request is submitted not later than three days prior to Election Day. The request should specify: name, surname, father's name, and date of birth.

35.3. The minister of transportation and navigation shall, in cooperation with the State Electoral Commission, define the procedure for preparing the lists referred to in Paragraph 1.

Article 36.1. Voters sojourning on land abroad are included in the list of voters prepared by the appropriate consulate of the Republic of Poland for the area.

36.2. The inclusion is based on personal application, whether made verbally, in writing, or by telephone, telegraph, or telefax. The application should contain name, surname, father's name, date of birth, and the place of sojourn of the voter. Applications may be made not later than three days prior to Election Day.

36.3. The minister of foreign affairs shall, in cooperation with the State Electoral Commission, define the procedure for preparing the list referred to in Paragraph 1.

Article 37. Not later than 15 days before 25 November the gmina board makes lists of voters available for public inspection at its offices, for a period of five days, fivr hours daily, at times convenient to citizens, on notifying the voters about the place and hours of inspection.

Article 38.1. Anyone may submit a claim about inaccuracies in the list of voters to the office which prepared the list, during the period when the list is available for public inspection.

38.2. The claim is submitted in writing or verbally for the record.

38.3. The claim is considered within 48 hours of its submission.

38.4. After the claim is decided upon, the office which had prepared the original list:

1) Complements or rectifies the list, or

2) Deletes from the list the name of the person whom the claim concerns, on transmitting a corresponding notice along with a rationale to the person concerned, or

3) Refrains from acting on the claim upon correspondingly notifying the claimant and presenting him with the rationale.

Article 39.1. The decision not to act on a claim or to delete a person's name from the list of voters may be appealed by the claimant or by the deleted person to the district court proper for the area for which the list was prepared. A copy of the contested decision should be appended to the appeal.

39.2. The court, in a bench of one judge, considers the matter in nonlitigious proceedings within three days from the date the appeal is submitted. The court's ruling is communicated to the appellant and to the office which had prepared the list. There is no appeal from the court's ruling.

39.3. Correspondingly, claims with respect to lists of voters concerning the persons referred to in Article 36, Paragraph 1, and Article 36, Paragraph 1, are considered by captains of seagoing vessels and by consuls. Their decisions are final.

Chapter 5.
Nominating the Candidates for the Presidency

Article 40.1. The right to nominate candidates for the President of the Polish Republic belongs to:

1) Political and social organizations.

2) Voters.

40.2. The nominating petition should be supported by the personal signatures of at least 100,000 voters.

40.3. Candidates for the Presidency may be nominated within 20 days from the date on which the Speaker of the Sejm orders the elections of the President.

Article 41.1. The nominating petition should contain:

1) The name, surname, age, educational background, occupation or profession, address of workplace, and home address of the nominated candidate, along with his affiliation with a political or social organization, if any.

2) The name of the organization submitting the nominating petition and the name, surname, and address of its representative [campaign manager].

3) A list of voters supporting the nomination; it should contain legibly written names, surnames, ages, addresses, and I.D. or passport or military passbook numbers of these voters, along with their personal signatures; each page of the list should contain the heading: "I support the candidacy of (name of the candidate) for the President."

41.2. Once affirmed by a signature, support for the candidate may not be withdrawn.

41.3. Appended to the nominating petition should be the candidate's written consent to the candidacy.

Article 42.1. The State Electoral Commission registers the candidates for the presidency if their nominating petitions are submitted in accordance with the provisions of law; the Commission keeps a record of the registration and notifies the campaign manager referred to in Article 41, Paragraph 1, Point 2.

42.2. If the nominating petition is flawed, the State Electoral Commission refuses to register the candidate and immediately calls upon his campaign manager to eliminate these flaws, within a period of time specified by the Commission.

42.3. In the event that he disagrees with the validity of the Commission's ruling, the campaign manager may appeal to the Supreme Court within two days from the date of refusal to register the candidate.

Article 43.1. Following the elapse of the period of time referred to in Article 40, Paragraph 3, the State Electoral Commission prepares an electoral list containing in alphabetical order the names, surnames, age, educational background, occupation or profession, workplace, and home address of the properly nominated and registered candidates.

43.2. On the request of the campaign manager the electoral list may also specify the candidate's affiliation with a political or social organization.

43.3. Not later than 15 days before 25 November wall posters with the aforementioned list of candidates shall be put up by the State Electoral Commission.

Article 44. The State Electoral Commission shall delete from the electoral list any candidates who withdraw their consent, pass away, or forfeit the right to be elected. Such cases the Commission shall immediately make public.

Article 45.1. Campaign managers referred to in Article 41, Paragraph 1, Point 2, have the right to assign one representative each to the State Electoral Commission, to each voivodship electoral commission, and to each district electoral commission.

45.2. The campaign manager shall issue to his representatives authorizations on official forms printed by the State Electoral Commission.

45.3. The assignment referred to in Paragraph 1 is addressed to the appropriate electoral commission not later than 10 days prior to Election Day. The notice of assignment should specify the name, surname, and address of the representative, and a document attesting to his powers should be appended.

45.4. The notice of assignment authorizes the representative to participate in electoral operations, in accordance with the provisions of law.

Chapter 6.
The Ballot

Article 46. After the electoral list is prepared, the State Electoral Commission orders the printing of the needed number of ballots and, jointly with the voivodship electoral commissions, assures their delivery to the district electoral commissions.

Article 47.1. The ballot specifies in alphabetical order the names and surnames of the registered candidates for the presidency.

47.2. The ballot bears the seal of the State Electoral Commission.

47.3. Information on voting procedure and ballot validity is printed on the ballot.

47.4. The ballot may be imprinted on only one side.

Article 48. The procedure and guidelines for preparing and supplying ballots for the polling disstricts formed on Polish seagoing ships and on land abroad are determined, in cooperation with the State Electoral Commission, correspondingly by the minister of transportation and navigation and the minister of foreign affairs.

Chapter 7.
The Balloting

Article 49. The balloting is done on the premises of the district electoral commission during a single day continuously between 0600 and 2000 hours.

Article 50.1. Before the balloting the voter presents to the district electoral commission a document serving to verify his identity.

50.2. If a voter lacks such a document but is named on the list, he may call upon two credible witnesses known to the members of the commission. The commission's decision as to the verification of identity is final.

50.3. A voter presenting to the commission a certification of his right to vote is allowed to cast a ballot upon first being included in the list of voters. Said certification is appended to the list of voters. Article 51.1. After acting as prescribed in Article 50, the voter receives from the commission a ballot and the commission ticks off his name on the list of voters.

51.2. Upon receiving the ballot the voter proceeds to the screened-off area assuring secrecy of balloting.

Article 52. The voter personally elects one of the candidates whose names are listed on the ballot, by placing the sign "X" to the right of the candidate's name.

Article 53. The voter casts the ballot into the voting urn, which is placed in an accessible and visible spot in the voting premises.

Article 54. Incapacitated persons may, while balloting, avail themselves of the assistance of individuals who are not members of the district electoral commission or representatives of the candidates.

Article 55. Entry to voting premises is prohibited for persons who carry arms.

Article 56.1. Before balloting commences, the district electoral commission checks to see whether the urn is empty, whether lists of voters are on hand, and whether the needed number of ballots is on hand, and also whether the commission's premises contain a suitable number of readily accessible accommodations assuring secrecy of balloting, whereupon the voting urn is locked and the commission's seal is affixed to it.

56.2. From the moment the voting urn is sealed until the balloting ends, the urn may not be opened.

Article 57.1. From the moment the balloting commences until its results are determined, at least three members of the district electoral commission should be present on the voting premises, with one of them to be the commission chairman, the deputy chairman, or the secretary.

57.2. Representatives of the candidates have the right to be present in the voting premises on Election Day on the basis of authorizations issued by the campaign managers of the candidates.

Article 58.1. The chairman of the district electoral commission safeguards the secrecy of balloting and the maintenance of order and peace during the balloting.

58.2. The chairman of the district electoral commission has the right to demand of persons disturbing peace that they leave the voting premises.

58.3. On the demand of the chairman of the district electoral commission, the head of the nearest police precinct is dutybound to provide needed assistance.

58.4. In cases of public disturbance in the voting premises the provisions of Article 55 do not apply.

Article 59.1. If owing to extraordinary events balloting is temporarily rendered impossible, the chairman of the district electoral commission or a person representing him may interrupt or prolong the balloting or postpone it till the next day.

59.2. A decision of the kind referred to in Paragraph 1 should be made public by the locally customary procedure and immediately conveyed to the gmina board, the voivodship electoral commission and, through the mediation of the latter, the State Electoral Commission.

59.3. In the event of interruption or postponement of the balloting, the commission seals the voting urn and hands it to the chairman of the district electoral commission, who is responsible for its safekeeping. Before balloting is resumed, the commission checks whether the seals are not disturbed and records the fact in writing.

Article 60. The district electoral commission may order an early termination of the balloting if all the voters named on the list of voters have cast their ballots. The chairman of the district electoral commission immediately notifies the voivodship electoral commission of the order to terminate the balloting.

Chapter 8.
Determining the Results of the Balloting

Article 61.1. Immediately after the balloting ends, the chairman of the district electoral commission shall, in the presence of members of the commission and representatives of the candidates, count and secure the unused ballots and open the voting urn, whereupon the commission determines:

1) The number of authorized voters.

2) The number of voters who took part in the balloting.

3) The number of valid ballots cast.

4) The number of invalid ballots cast.

5) The number of valid ballots cast for every individual candidate.

61.2. This counting is done on the basis of the list of voters and the number of ballots cast by voters into the urn.

Article 62.1. The commission deems a ballot invalid if:

1) It is not an officially printed ballot.

2) The voter marks with an "X" more than one candidate's name.

3) The voter does not mark with an "X" any candidate's name.

62.2. Write-ins of additional names or the addition of other inscriptions do not affect the validity of the ballots.

62.3. Ballots completely torn in half are not included in the official count.

Article 63.1. The district electoral commission immediately prepares two copies of the balloting record.

63.2. The balloting record contains the data referred to in Article 61, Paragraph 1, as well as information on:

1) Time of commencement and ending of the balloting.

2) Number of ballots provided to the electoral commission, and number of unused ballots remaining.

3) Presumable reasons for any discrepancy between the number of voters who had picked up their ballots and the number of ballots found in the voting urn by the electoral commission.

4) Orders and rulings issued by the commission as well as other major circumstances relating to the course of the balloting.

5) Any conceivable accusations made by the representatives of the candidates.

6) Any conceivable reservations voiced by commission members as to the course of the balloting.

63.3. The balloting record is signed by the members of the electoral commission who were present at its preparation. The commission's seal is affixed to that record.

Article 64. Immediately after the balloting record is prepared, the district electoral commission makes public the results of the balloting referred to in Article 61, Paragraph 1.

Article 65.1. The chairman of the district electoral commission transmits one copy of the balloting record in a sealed envelope to the appropriate voivodship electoral commission by a procedure defined by the State Electoral Commission.

65.2. The district electoral commission appends to the balloting record referred to in Paragraph 1 its explanation concerning any accusations made by the representatives of the candidates.

Article 66.1. The voivodship electoral commission, after it receives balloting records from all the polling districts, determines the overall results of the balloting in the voivodship and prepares a a record in two copies. The provisions of Article 61, Paragraph 1, Article 63, Paragraphs 2 and 3, and Article 64 apply correspondingly.

66.2. The record of the overall results of the balloting in the voivodship is immediately transmitted by the voivodship electoral commission to the State Electoral Commission in a sealed envelope, together with the balloting records for all the district electoral commissions. The provision of Article 65, Paragraph 2, applies correspondingly.

66.3. The procedure for the transmittal by and acceptance of records from voivodship electoral commission is determined by the State Electoral Commission.

66.4. Copies of these records are, along with all the related documents, transmitted by the chairmen of district and voivodship electoral commissions to the village burgomasters and voivodes.

Chapter 9.
Determining the Balloting Results and the Winner in the Presidential Elections

Article 67. Immediately after copies of the balloting records are received from all the voivodship electoral commissions, the State Electoral Commission determines the results of the voting for presidential candidates and prepares a balloting record.

Article 68.1. On the basis of the results specified in the balloting record, the State Electoral Commission determines the results of the Presidential elections.

68.2. A Presidential candidate who receives more than one-half of the valid votes is considered to be the winner.

68.3. If no candidate receives the absolute majority of votes, run-off elections are held after 14 days for the two candidates who received the largest number of votes during the first balloting, and who have not withdrawn their candidacy.

68.4. Run-off elections are not held if, for reasons referred to in Article 44, only one candidate remains on the list of candidates.

68.5. In the case referred to in Paragraph 4, the provision of Paragraph 2 does not apply and that sole candidate is regarded as the elected President.

Article 69.1. The results of the balloting and of the elections are made public by the State Electoral Commission in the form of an announcement.

69.2. In the case referred to in Article 68, Paragraph 3, the Commission announces the names and surnames of the candidates eligible for the run-off elections.

69.3. The announcement by the State Electoral Commission on the results of the presidential elections is subject to publication in DZIENNIK USTAW RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ.

Article 70.1. Run-off elections are held by the procedure prescribed in this Decree, with the proviso that:

1) The balloting proceeds on the basis of the same lists of voters.

2) Balloting take place only on national territory.

70.2. The winner is the candidate who receives the greatest number of valid votes.

70.3. The State Electoral Commission announces to the public the results of the run-off elections. The announcement of the State Electoral Commission is subject to publication in DZIENNIK USTAW RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ.

Article 71. The State Electoral Commission submits to the National Assembly a report on the elections.

Chapter 10.
Validity of Presidential Elections

Article 72.1. A presidential election may be contested (petitioned) on the grounds of violation of legal provisions or on the grounds of an electoral crime, if said violation or crime may affect the results of the election.

72.2. The electoral petition may be submitted by a voter whose name was included in the list of voters of one of the polling districts on Election Day.

72.3. The right to contest the election also applies to the organizations nominating candidates and to electoral commissions.

Article 73.1. The petition is submitted in writing to the Supreme Court, not later than within three days from the date the results of the elections are publicly announced by the State Electoral Commission.

73.2. This requirement is considered as satisfied—with respect to voters in the polling districts formed on Polish seagoing ships or abroad—if the petition is submitted to the ship captain or to the appropriate consul.

73.3. The petitioner should formulate in the petition the accusations and present or indicate the evidence on which they are based.

Article 74.1. The Supreme Court does not act upon a petition submitted following the expiration of the abovementioned time limit, or submitted by an unauthorized person.

74.2. If the petition does not meet the requirements of Article 73, Paragraph 3, the Supreme Court assigns three days for complementing it.

74.3. In the event the petition is not complemented within the specified time limit, the Supreme Court may desist from acting on it.

74.4. If the petition contains an accusation of an electoral crime, the Supreme Court immediately notifies the Prosecutor General of the Polish Republic.

Article 75.1. The Supreme Court considers the petition in a bench of three justices, upon correspondingly applying the provisions of the Code of Administrative Proceedings for nonlitigious proceedings.

75.2. The participants in the proceedings are, by virtue of law: the petitioner, the concerned electoral commission, the Prosecutor General of the Polish Republic, and a representative of the State Electoral Commission.

75.3. The Supreme Court formulates its opinion on the petition and presents it, together with the dossier of the case, to the Speaker of the Sejm.

Article 76.1. On the basis of a report on the elections presented by the State Electoral Commission, and upon examining the accusations contained in the petition and the related opinion of the Supreme Court, the National Assembly decides on the validity of the Presidential elections.

76.2. If the National Assembly finds the Presidential elections to be invalid, it also decides on the extent to which they are invalidated and on the conduct of new elections.

Chapter 11.
The Electoral Campaign

Article 77.1. On Election Day and during 36 hours preceding that day the following activities are prohibited: the convening of rallies, organization of parades and demonstrations, speech-making, distribution of leaflets, and any other kind of electioneering.

77.2. All forms of electioneering are prohibited in the voting premises.

Article 78.1. The conduct of electoral campaigns on the territory of workplaces in a manner interfering with their normal operation is prohibited.

78.2. The conduct of electoral campaigns on the territory of military units and other organizational units under the jurisdiction of the minister of national defense as well as among civil defense units and among police units quartered in barracks is prohibited.

Article 79.1. Electoral wall posters, inscriptions, or flyers bearing explicit identification of their originators or a statement identifying their distributors are subject to the protection of law.

79.2. The provisions of Article 63a of the Code of Petty Offenses do not apply to electoral posters.

79.3. The affixing of electoral posters outside and inside the buildings housing the voting premises as well as the outside and inside state and local government offices and court buildings is prohibited.

79.4. The provision of Paragraph 3 does not apply to the electoral announcements legally issued by the electoral commissions.

79.5. On the walls of buildings and structures other than those mentioned in Paragraph 3, as well as on partitions, electoral posters and inscriptions may be placed only after obtaining the consent of the proprietor or administrator.

Article 80.1. If posters, inscriptions, leaflets or other forms of electoral propaganda and agitation contain untrue or inaccurate information, any interested party has the right to petition the district court to issue an injunction, or some other temporary order, against the dissemination of such information.

80.2. The district court decides on such a petition within 24 hours in nonlitigious proceedings in a bench of one judge. The ruling of the court is immediately transmitted to the concerned party referred to in Paragraph 1, to the appropriate voivodship electoral commission, and to the person or organization ordered to implement that ruling.

80.3. The ruling of the district court may be appealed within 24 hours to the voivodship court, which is required to consider that appeal within 24 hours by the aforementioned procedure. The lawful ruling of the court is subject to immediate execution.

Article 81.1. Irrespective of the provisions of Articles 31-33 of the Decree of 26 January 1984—The Press Law (Dz.U., No. 5, Item 24, 1984; No. 41, Item 324, 1988; No. 34, Item 187, 1989; and No. 29, Item 173, 1990), untrue or incorrect information pertaining to the elections and linked to the electoral campaign, when provided in the press or in nonperiodical publications, is subject to being rectified within 48 hours.

81.2. In the event of refusal to publish the rectification, the plaintiff has the right to request the district court to issue a corresponding injunction, and that court is required to consider the case within 24 hours in nonlitigious proceedings, in a bench of one judge. The court's ruling is immediately conveyed to the plaintiff and to the party required to publish the rectification. The ruling of the district court may be appealed within 24 hours to the voivodship court, which considers the appeal within the following 24 hours. The lawful ruling of the court is subject to immediate execution.

81.3. As regards the rectification of information printed in publications other than daily newspapers, the court specifies the daily newspaper in which the rectification is to be published at the expense of the guilty party within a time limit of not more than 48 hours.

81.4. In the event of refusal or failure to publish the rectification by the guilty party or the party named in the court's ruling, on the request of the plaintiff, the court orders publishing the rectification in executive proceedings within a specified time limit.

Article 82. The utilization of the rights ensuing from this Decree does not encroach upon the wronged or injured party's possibilities for seeking redress on the basis of other laws.

Article 83.1. Candidates have free and equal access to the state radio and television.

83.2. The State Electoral Commission shall, in cooperation with the chairman of the Committee for Radio and Television, specify the guidelines for the presentation of electoral programs and declarations by registered candidates and their specified representatives on state radio and television.

83.3. The information, communiques, appeals, and slogans proclaimed in the printed media or on radio or on television at the expense of the candidate or the organization sponsoring the candidate must specify the name of the sponsor and meet the requirements of this Decree referred to in Article 81, Paragraph 1.

Chapter 12.
Financing of Elections

Article 84.1. The cost of the elections is defrayed from the State Budget, with the proviso of Paragraph 2.

84.2. The expenses relating to the nomination of candidates and to their electoral campaigns are defrayed from the funds of the organizations sponsoring the candidates.

Article 85.1. Legal entities and individuals may donate campaign funds for registered candidates.

85.2. The funds donated by legal entities may derive from profits alone.

85.3. The provision of Paragraph 2 also applies to the nonreimbursable provision of services.

Article 86. The following funds may not be allocated for electoral campaigns:

1) State Budget monies.

2) Monies from the budgets of local agencies of the government administration and other state organizational units.

3) Monies from the budgets of gminas, self-government sejmiks [dietines], and communal associations.

4) Funds of the state economic entities and other legal entities in which the State Treasury is a majority shareholder.

5) Funds from foreign sources.

Article 87.1. A candidate's campaign manager referred to in Article 41, Paragraph 1, Point 2, may organize public collections of funds for financing the electoral campaign.

87.2. Organizing such public collections does not require an official permit.

Article 88.1. The financing of electoral campaigns is a matter of public record.

88.2. A report on the expenditures paid from the State Budget is made public by the minister of finance within 3 months after Election Day.

88.3. Campaign managers of presidential candidates, referred to in Article 41, Paragraph 1, Point 2, submit to the chairman of the State Electoral Commission, within two months after Election Day, financial reports on the expenses associated with conducting the electoral campaign and on the related funding sources.

88.4. The reports referred to in Paragraphs 2 and 3 are available for public inspection.

Chapter 13.
Provisional and Final Regulations

Article 89. The first elections referred to in Article 1 are held on national territory within the polling districts originally established pursuant to Article 15, Paragraph 1, of the Decree of 8 March 1990—The Law Governing Elections to Gmina Councils (Dz.U., No. 16, Item 96).

Article 90. All written communications and judicial and administrative proceedings concerning electoral affairs are fee-exempt.

Article 91. This Decree takes effect on the day of its publication.

President of the Republic of Poland: W. Jaruzelski

Sejm Passes Law on Former PZPR Assets

LD0911004990 Warsaw PAP in English 1839 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Warsaw, Nov. 9—The Sejm (lower house) decided, with 167 votes for, 120 against and 32 abstentions, to pass a law turning over remaining assets of the former Polish United Workers Party [PZPR] to the state treasury (excluding membership dues).

Assets of the former PZPR were of considerable value, and included till recently about 1900 buildings and premises, as well as a number of movable goods, claims and funds. PZPR was the owner of the RSW press concern, liquidated by a separate law.

The government-appointed commission for establishing the legal stae of assets of political parties and youth organizations and the recovery of state property decided to take over for the state about 95 per cent of PZPR's assets and to leave the remaining 5 per cent in the use of the Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland. Similar procedures were instituted with respect to assets the Democratic Party and the United Peasant Party and of the then youth organizations.

Despite those decisions, a group of deputies, chiefly from the Citizens Parliamentary Club (OKP) lodged its own draft last April, which proposed the handing over 100 per cent of all PZPR's assets to the state treasury. Deputies argued that the Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland has no title even to a part of PZPR's assets, because the former PZPR had acquired the assets illegally.

During today's debate, the Sejm rejected a draft law lodged by a group of deputies of the Parliamentary Club of the Democratic Left [PKLD], in which they proposed the taking over by the state treasury of assets of all three parties which functioned in the Polish People's Republic, that is the PZPR, the Democratic Party and the United Peasant Party, unless they had legal ownership titles.

OKP deputies did not take part in today's debate, declaring that "the matter has been discussed for many months now."

The PKLD deputies spoke against the adoption of the law. Key arguments used by those deputies were based on a thesis that the intention of authors of that law was to achieve political revenge and to create a precedent in form of a retroactive law.

The PKLD deputies also stated that all property issues have been decided by the government commission and cautioned against the rousing of "easy illusions" in society, and especially against forming a conviction that "it will be enough to take something away, to remove someone and after that everything will be O.K."

Some of the deputies perceived in the draft a campaign trick. Presidential candidate Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz (PKLD) said that the law was a simplistic form of punishment for the past and amounted to pushing off the Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland and the entire left to political sidelines.

Minister of Justice Aleksander Bentkowski delivered a reply in which he presented to the chamber results of work of a government commission assigned to examine the legal status of buildings remaining under management of the Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland. In 20 cases, out of the total of 28, the commission questioned the legality of ownership, while 11 buildings, despite the proceedings, were sold by the Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland for over 100 billion zlotys.

To make all things perfectly clear, Deputy Andrzej Kern (OKP) said that now the Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland will have an occasion to function in similar conditions as other parties function.

The law provides for the appointment by the head of the Office of the Council of Ministers of a liquidator.

[Warsaw PAP in English at 1908 GMT on 9 November adds in a similar report, datelined Warsaw: "The Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland said that today's adoption by the Sejm of the law on confiscation of Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland's assets was an act of political revenge and burdening of people of the left with a collective responsibility for the past. In a statement conveyed to PAP, Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland also said that this is a dangerous precedent, it reveals a tendency to eliminate opposition groups from the political life. The confiscation of Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland's assets cannot and will not mean the departure of our party from the political arena, it was stressed in the statement."]

Sejm Examines Abortion Issue, PZPR Property

LD1011001190 Warsaw PAP in English 1944 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Warsaw, Nov. 9—During the second day of debates today the Sejm decided that the issue of abortion would be discussed by the parliament after presidential elections and that the assets of the dissolved Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR] would be taken over by state treasury.

The motion that the Senate draft on the legal protection of unborn child should not be put on the daily agenda before the election of the president was voted for by 140 deputies and against by 93 deputies while 498 persons abstained from voting.

The Sejm adopted the bill under which the movable assets and real estate owned by the former Communist Party on Aug. 24 last year would become state property. Also today the Sejm adopted the bill on the expansion of the operation of the law on privatisation of state enterprises, to cover an additional, small group of enterprises, to cover an additional, small group of enterprises, including the Gdansk Shipyard. The deputies also made a related decision, rejecting the draft law on the free sale of some shares of the joint stock company "Gdansk Shipyard." At present the government is authorised to distribute these shares for free.

The Sejm also rejected the Senate's amendments to the penal-financial law, recently worded anew.

The deputies ended today a debate on the guidelines of the policy in the power sector for the years 1990-2010, adopting a separate resolution.

In the evening, the house debated the directions of privatization this year as presented by Minister for Ownership Transformations Waldemar Kuczynsksi. The transformations wil be carried out along two paths: through the sale of stocks and their distribution.

The deputies pointed to the need to create equal chances for Polish and foreign capital.

The Senate also held a meeting today. It decided to table the Sejm its own draft law under which all sentences passed by courts and extra-court bodies since May 9, 1943 till December 31, 1989 for activities aimed at preserving Poland's independence would be annulled.

The bill would replace the current procedure of individual special revisions with an act of general nature.

Among the adopted amendments the most important is the one annulling all the sentences of so-called secret sections. Some senators warned that this could mean lifting sentences passed not only on patriots but also common criminals and even Nazis. Many senators think that the draft law is incomplete because it does not condemn those guilty of Stalinist crimes.

Special Sejm Session on Budget Set for 30 Nov

LD1011173390 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1643 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Summary] Deputy Sejm Speaker Olga Krzyzanowska closed the three-day Sejm session today. She announced that the next session will be held on 22 and 23 November, when social issues willd be discussed. On 30 November a special Sejm meeting has been called to discuss the budget.

Citizens Parliamentary Club Fragmentation Detailed

PM0911100590 Krakow GAZETA KRAKOWSKA in Polish 23 Oct 90 pp 1-2

[Jerzy Sadowski article: "OKP: A Thing of the Past?"]

[Text] The Citizens Parliamentary Club [OKP] has not seen internal unity for a long time. Will its lifespan finally come to an end with the conclusion of the parliamentary term of office? The next club session will have to come up with an answer to this question.

At the beginning of the Sejm's term of office they presented themselves as "Lech's Team" and, accordingly, they voted in unison, though they never claimed any kind of party discipline. The first differences of opinion appeared during the debate on the choice of president. At that time, the stand taken by several senators effectively tipped the scales to General Jaruzelski's advantage.

Before long, the OKP began to develop internal differences. Plenary Sejm sessions were frequently the scene of polemical arguments between deputies hailing from the same club. The founding of the Center Alliance and, subsequently, the Citizens Movement for Democratic Action [ROAD] group as well as groups representing farmers' interests effectively fragmented the former opposition club. The approaching presidential election only poured oil onto the flames.

Today the following splinter groups can be distinguished in the OKP:

—Agriculture Section, totaling some 50 parliamentarians;
—Polish Peasants Party [PSL] Solidarity Circle, estimated at 30 deputies and senators;
—Employees' Interests Protection Group (24 members), set up by Ryszard Bugaj and Karol Modzelewski;
—Democratic Christian Group (62 members);
—Liberal-Democratic Parliamentary Group (15 members);
—Christian National Unification Circle, established 26 September by six people, including deputies Jurek, Lopuszanski, and Niesiolowski;
—Center Alliance Parliamentary Circle, grouping 53 persons;
—Citizens Movement for Democratic Action [ROAD] group, which has not declared itself formally to date as a deputies' club or circle. Some 50 deputies and senators declare their ROAD allegiance.

About 600 deputies and senators do not declare affiliation to any of the above groups. At the same time, many parliamentarians belong to two or more groups. According to a list circulating in the Sejm (and from which I quote my data), many different configurations are possible. For example, Deputy Jozef Gutowski of Ostroleka has joined the Agriculture Group, the PSL Solidarity, the Christian Democratic Group, and the Center Alliance.

In the case of deputies and senators representing our voivodships [Krakow; Nowy Sacz; Tarnow], the classification of their political sympathies is as follows (I quote from the list obtained from the Sejm):

—No affiliation stated: Edward Nowak, Roman Ciesielski, Stanislaw Chrobak, Krzysztof Kozlowski;
—ROAD members: Jozefa Hennelowa, Jan Rokita, Zofia Kuratowska, Stanislaw Skalski;
—Jozef Jungiewicz belongs to Center Alliance, Agriculture Section, and PSL Solidarity;
—Deputies Karol Krasnodebski and Jerzy Orzel declare their support for Center Alliance and Christian Democrats;
—Jan Rusznica is a member of Center Alliance;
—Krzysztof Pawlowski and Wladyslaw Skalski support the Christian Democrats; and finally,
—Senator Andrzej Fenrych and Deputy Mieczyslaw Gil declare themselves in favor of the Employees' Interests Protection Group.

Considering the scale of the OKP fragmentation, can we not conclude that the OKP as such is by now a fictional body and that keeping it together is tantamount to resuscitation efforts?

Some deputies insist that it is indeed so. They believe that the OKP should be dissolved now. Others are in favor of carrying on together as a team until the end of the parliamentary term of office. Center Alliance objects that the Club presidium has been taken over by ROAD activists and insists that it should be reorganized according to the principle of representation of the various political forces within the OKP. Can this solution save the OKP? We will find out on Wednesday, at the scheduled plenary OKP session.

Freedom Party Opens First Congress 9 Nov

LD0911234990 Warsaw PAP in English 2142 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Wroclaw, Nov. 9—The first congress of the Freedom Party, a political organization stemming from fighting Solidarity, began its first congress today. The 3-day debates will be attended by 250 delegates and supporters as well as foreign guests from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belorussia, Russia and the Ukraine.

The chairman of the Freedom Party and fighting Solidarity Kornel Morawiecki stressed that the key goal of his party was to continue the struggle for Poland's full independence.

"It is here that Solidarity, the most powerful ideologic contradiction of communism, was born. Unfortunately, the agreement with the communists at 'the roundtable' has allowed them to preserve Mafia-like privileges, chiefly of an economic nature. The Freedom Party must struggle against this," Morawiecki said.

Council of Ministers Views Economic Issues

AU1211085690 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 6 Nov 90 p 1

[Piotr Aleksandrowicz report: "A Strategy of Fast Continuation"]

[Excerpts] The 5 November Council of Ministers session was devoted to economic issues. But before it discussed the provisions of 1991 socioeconomic policy and several bills on taxation, there was a secret part of the meeting in which

Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski reported on current foreign policy matters, including the East European foreign ministers' meeting in Budapest and Polish-Soviet talks on the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Poland.

Then, after a brief but lively debate, the council adopted a bill on revised pensions for those aged 80 and over. [passage omitted]

The debate on economic issues was opened by Minister Jerzy Osiatynski, who presented a Central Planning Office, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Labor and Social Policy report on the provisions of 1991 socioeconomic policy. This report has been produced at a time when no one knows what the foreign conditions for Polish economic activity will be like next year.

The government proposes to support a long-term economic growth by means of rapid changes to the economic system, coupled with a stable, convertible zloty. The authors of the report say that budget and financial-credits policy will play a key role in macroeconomic policy. Preserving and perpetuating economic equilibrium calls for a constantly balanced budget. The Central Bank will see to it that the zloty preserves stable rates of exchange and that prices remain stable.

What does the "strategy of fast continuation" (a term used by Finance Minister Balcerowicz) involve? First, about 50 percent of the public sector is to be privatized within three years, and next year between 150 to 200 large and medium enterprises, plus the majority of small enterprises, will be privatized.

Second, 1991 will mark a breakthrough in the development of financial institutions. A securities commission and stock exchange will be set up. Several dozen new commercial banks will come into existence, and several major foreign banks will open branch offices in Poland. The State Insurance Office will lose its monopoly, and the insurance market will be dominated by voluntary insurance schemes.

Third, there will be a fundamental reform of public finances, including the adoption of a new budget law, a demarcation between the state budget and local government budgets, the creation of new rules for financing local government bodies, and a reform of the tax system.

Fourth, customs tariffs will be relaxed, whereby the suspension of customs duty implemented in the second half of this year will be carried over into next year. There will be a further relaxation to the rules governing foreign currency dealings.

The nominal rate of taxation will be kept at 40 percent. The size of subsidies for enterprises will diminish, except for the railroad, housing, and communal services. The range of official prices this year will remain more or less intact next year. The fiscal brake on wage rises will continue to be applied next year, with the possibility that enterprises may loosen this brake in line with their privatization.

Unemployment is expected to increase by another 500,000 to 800,000 in 1991, reaching a figure of between 1.6 million and 2 million by the end of the year. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers adopted a bill on value added tax on goods and services. The basic rate of this tax is meant to about 18 percent. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers session also discussed a bill on communal taxes.

PAP Reports Unemployment Figure Tops 1 Million

LD1011001290 Warsaw PAP in English 1906 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Warsaw, Nov. 9—The number of jobless in Poland reached exactly 1008 thousand at the end of October, during which 80 thousand people lost their jobs. Still, it was the slowest monthly increase since January of this year.

The number of jobless decreased in the Leszno, Poznan and Slupsk Voivodships. The biggest number of those unemployed are in the Warsaw and Szczecin Voivodships.

European Christian Democrats Meet in Krakow

LD1011175890 Warsaw PAP in English 1641 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Krakow, Nov 10—Eastern and Central European Christian Democrats have concluded their two-day conference here today, in which representatives of Christian Democratic parties and groups from Lithuania, Ukraine, Bohemia, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Poland were taking part.

The meeting, which in the final communique voiced the desire to develop mutual contacts and undertake measures leading to the expansion of cooperation among countries of this European region, worked on identifying those common Christian virtues which can make a contribution of the Central and Eastern European Christian Democracy to the process of European integration.

The meeting suggested organizing a permanent secretariat for the cooperation of Christian Democratic groups, opening an international centre in Krakow for training and research in Christian Democratic thought, and installing a radio station to beam its programme to the Central and Eastern European countries.

Reportage on Mazowiecki's Visit to Germany

WA0911193690

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki to Germany, including reports on his talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl regarding German-Polish relations, please see the Germany section of the 9 November West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Ties With Saudi Arabia, Bahrain To Be Set Up

AU0811204790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1919 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—Agreement was made to act for establishing diplomatic relations between Romania, on the one hand, and Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, on the other hand, announced the Foreign Affairs Ministry's spokesman at his usual weekly press conference.

Commenting upon the visit paid to the Middle East over October 26-November 7 by a Romanian delegation headed by the minister of public works, Doru Pana, tour also including Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman, the speaker specified that possibilities were identified to urgently get oil and liquefied gas for Romania, as well as for the participation of Romanian companies to the achievement of units in petrochemistry, agriculture, air and river transports.

Citizens Remain in Iraq: Steps Taken for Return

AU0811204390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1941 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—Romania further takes steps to get exit visas for the 394 Romanians still in Iraq, announced the spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Teodor Melescanu, during the weekly news conference. A delegation is now in Baghdad, led by an undersecretary of state, a demarche which nevertheless harmonizes with Romania's consistent stand of observing the UN Security Council resolutions.

Nastase on Israeli Ties, Gulf, Warsaw Pact

TA0811165090 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Nov 90 p 14

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase by Rome-based correspondent Yosi Bar; place and date not given]

[Text] "Since the revolution, relations with Israel have been excellent. They will improve even more in the future. Israel offers us a lot, but we are still not prepared for it."

Those are some of the remarks Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase made in an exclusive interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

The Romanian foreign minister, a 40-year-old U.S.-trained jurist, made no secret of his support for U.S. policy in the Gulf.

"Our position regarding the Iraqi invasion is well known. We support the boycott, but it has cost us approximately $3 billion. We expect assistance from Western countries," Nastase noted.

The foreign minister expects relations between Romania and Israel to develop. "We are currently seeking a personality of stature to fill the role of ambassador to your country," he disclosed.

Answering a question on why the PLO has such a strong status in Romania, the minister said: "The revolution bequeathed to us both positive and negative things." He refused to comment on the PLO, saying that Romania is seeking the golden mean between the Arab countries and Israel.

Regarding the post-revolution anti-Semitism developing in Romania, the foreign minister said: "I regret to admit that such manifestations do exist, but they are not expressions of collective Romanian conduct; they are merely the acts of extremists."

The Romanian minister added that his country has a clear line regarding Moldavia. His government is concerned about the well-being of the residents, closely monitors the unrest, but has no territorial demands.

In the interview, the Romanian minister emphasized that there is currently no justification for the Warsaw Pact continuing to exist and that it will soon vanish. "The Pact has lost its military significance," he said. "It will turn into a political body and will exist only to justify the existence of NATO."

Ministry Spokesman on Budapest Pact Meeting

AU0811204290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2030 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—Commenting on the convention recently signed in Budapest by the foreign affairs ministers of the Warsaw Treaty states, the spokesman of Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs assessed it as a significant moment in the achievement of the treaty on conventional arms reduction in Europe.

Romania has firmly worked for arms reduction and for reaching an understanding to underlie the convention, the Romanian delegations insisting on finding generally acceptable solutions.

In his opinion, the conclusion of the treaty on conventional arms reduction in Europe would be an essential element of security on the continent, a special contribution to the success of the all-European summit in Paris.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Moldavian Republic

AU0811204190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2035 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—Public opinion in Romania is worried over the perpetuation of the tense situation in the SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] of Moldova following the continuation of separatist, destabilizing actions of extremist groups in the republic. It cannot remain indifferent to the developments in the neighboring republic, condemns the actions of the separatist elements and expresses its full solidarity with the population of the SSR of Moldova, supports the efforts of the president, parliament and government of the SSR of Moldova towards normalizing the situation.

In connection with that matter, a communique of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reads: The current situation in Europe urges that reality should be the starting point in settling all the problems that might crop up, all while abiding by the pledges assumed under international treaties and the Helsinki final act. In no way could anyone raise the question of changing frontiers in Europe since they are the basis of common security and peace on the continent.

We welcome the appeal of the USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev as regards the settlement of the problems that have cropped up in the SSR of Moldova only by abiding by the law and by maintaining the territorial integrity of the republic. But we note with concern that the appeal to reason launched by the leadership of the USSR and by the leadership of the SSR of Moldova is ignored by the extremist groups which refuse to carry into effect the resolutions of the ruling bodies of the SSR of Moldova and continue to work unhampered to fulfill their separatist plans. To tolerate this attitude can lead but to heightening tension and deteriorating the situation.

The intention to artificially create the so-called Gagauz and Transdniestrian republics, which runs counter to the order of law, in the territory of the SSR of Moldova, inhabited mostly by Romanians, threatens the territorial integrity of that republic, harms the national interests and feelings of the majority population and can seriously bear on the continuation of the democratic processes under way in that republic.

We hope that, starting from the observance of the legitimate right of the population of the SSR of Moldova to live and work in a democratic society, in keeping with its national aspirations, the USSR leadership and the soviet government, in the spirit of the statements made, will grant the necessary, effective and efficient, support to the leadership of the SSR of Moldova so that an end be put to destabilizing, separatist actions, and a solution be found within the existing state structures, that the order of law and the peace the heavily tried population of the SSR of Moldova needs be established.

Meeting of Solidarity With Moldova Held in Iasi

AU0811204890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1936 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—Thursday [8 November] the Unirii Square in Iasi hosted a meeting of solidarity with the fight of the people in the Moldovan SSR against the Transdniester and Gagauz separatists' attempts and actions.

The meeting, staged by the convention of the students' organizations in Iasi, was attended by several thousands students and inhabitants. The speakers university teaching staff, students, representatives of the People's Forum in Moldova expressed their concern and indignation over the anti-constitutional actions on Bessarabia's territory and called for tolerance and reconciliation. President Mikhail Gorbachev was required not to encourage the separatists' illegal actions and to allow the application of Moldova's laws on its entire territory, while President Ion Iliescu, Romania's Government and Parliament were required to make use of all diplomatic means to support the legitimate wishes of our Bessarabian brothers.

Association for Europe Against Divided Moldavia

AU0911162590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1607 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 9/11/1990—The Romanian Association for Europe is against the territorial division of the Republic of Moldova. The association, concerned over the events in the Republic of Moldova, firmly backs the government in Kishinev whose attitude meets the aspirations of all Romanians. Any attempt to divide or break up the territory of the Republic of Moldova, it says, is against the principles that are the basis of the European integration process.

Foreign Minister Nastase Meets Craxi in Rome

AU0811213690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2117 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—Adrian Nastase, Romanian minister of foreign affairs, has, as part of his political contacts during his visit to Italy, met Bettino Craxi, special representative of the UN Secretary General in charge of the developing countries' foreign debts, president of the Italian Socialist Union.

The talks focussed on the best ways to set the Romanian economy on solid foundations. Mr. Bettino Craxi particularly emphasized the necessity to open Romanian economy to foreign capital, with adequate guarantees for the foreign investors as well as with an adequate fiscal system apt to bring benefits to the Romanian state.

The two political leaders further exchanged views on several up-to-date international topics, referring mainly to the current European changes, the implications of political integration in the European community and the prospects of other countries joining the EEC, subregional cooperation trends, the effects of the Gulf crisis on European and international life in general.

Assesses Visit to Italy

AU0911163590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1252 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 9/11/1990—The recent visit to Italy of the Romanian minister of foreign affairs was, in his opinion, a positive episode in the Romanian diplomatic efforts. "This gave me the opportunity," said Minister Nastase in a statement to a ROMPRES reporter, "to outline, at the ministerial meeting of the Council of Europe, our unwavering pledge for the observance of the human rights in Romania, our wish to take part in the activities monitored by the Council of Europe and, naturally, the hope that our participation, formally speaking, in the organisms of this forum would become effective as soon as possible."

As for the bilateral relations, the Romanian foreign minister said: "I had particularly fruitful talks with my Italian counterpart with whom I examined the possibilities to give our political relations an institutional framework. On the other hand, we pursue to boost our economic relations by encouraging private initiative and Italian capital owners to invest in Romania. We have also tackled our cultural relations on the basis of a new cultural agreement which permits direct contacts between similar autonomous institutions in the two countries, be they academic, research or any other type. We have also reviewed certain aspects of the international relations starting from our common interest in the success of the Paris summit and, inevitably, dwelling on the consequences the Gulf crisis has in our two countries.

"During my visit I had numerous other contacts. I had the honour to be received by the president of the Italian Council of Ministers, Mr. Giulio Andreotti, to whom I personally conveyed a message from his Romanian counterpart, Premier Petre Roman, and another message addressed by President Ion Iliescu to President Francesco Cossiga. The tenor of yesterdays's talks was the wish to create a more adequate legal and constitutional framework for our bilateral relations. I also met Mr. Michele Achile, chairman of the Italian Senate's Foreign Policy Commission and I was received by Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, the Vatican under secretary for relations with other states. With him, I discussed the fundamentals of the Romania-Vatican diplomatic relations, for which the two states have already agreed to the ambassadors nominated. They are Apostolic Nuncio John Bukovski, who will assume duties in Bucharest by the end of this month, and our ambassador to the Vatican, Mr. Dan Lazarescu. I have also had the privilege of having been received by Socialist Party Leader Bettino Craxi, with whom I have approached a wide range of international issues, especially in his capacity of special representative of the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in matters concerning the developing countries' foreign debt. I was also given the opportunity to speak, at a press conference, about certain developments in the Romanian political life and some of our thoughts about the international context, which, I hope, contributed to a better understanding of the means by which the Romanian Government contemplates to implement the economic reform.

"We have tried to promote a new type of diplomacy: Open and straightforward," concluded Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase.

Nastase Meets European Parliament Official

AU0911201590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2044 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 9/11/1990—On November 9 Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, received Mr. Luigi Vertemati, deputy in the European Parliament for the socialist group, who is on a visit in Romania.

To support a series of understandings that were reached during Mr. Nastase's recent visit to Italy, a number of concrete projects were discussed that had to do with the development of the Romanian-Italian relations, and especially with the carrying into effect of the economic cooperation agreement between the EEC and Romania.

Expressing his good opinion about Romania's present situation, Mr. Vertemati informed the Romanian foreign minister of the interest taken by a number of Lombard businessmen in the signing of economic and tourist cooperation contracts and, generally, the support needed by Romania in its transition to a market economy.

PNL Discusses Joining Council of Europe

AU0911090190 Bucharest VIITORUL in Romanian 27 Oct 90 p 1

[National Liberal Party (PNL) Press Bureau-signed note: "Romania Joining the Council of Europe Discussed by the PNL Executive Bureau"]

[Text] The Executive Bureau of the National Liberal Party [PNL] held a meeting at the party's headquarters on Wednesday [24 October] evening. Taking into consideration the fact that this was the first joint meeting held with the representatives of the Social Liberal Party, Mr. I.V. Sandulescu, first vice president of the PNL gave a detailed presentation of the way in which the party's activity is being organized and the integration in activity and setting up teams was established. The participants noted the fact that an important inflow of people with real professional potential can be noticed after the merging of the two parties, which certainly will improve the work capacity. In his address, Mr. Neculai Cerveni—vice president of the PNL—mentioned that the announcement on the merging of the two parties produced an extremely favorable reaction which will result in concrete assistance to our work by a larger number of valuable lawyers. The participants decided that concomitantly with the usual activity the work of experts' commissions should be improved, thus answers can be provided any moment to initiatives, legal changes, or alternatives. Mr. Radu Campeanu, the PNL president, suggested that the issue of Romania's joining the Council of Europe as observer should be examined. The major arguments for a favorable attitude are the need to ensure a greater opening and the fact that by staying aside we risk the establishment of a new iron curtain, this time at Romania's border. It is no less true that granting the position of observer in the Council of Europe is conditioned by the application and observance of the basic principles of political and economic democracy. These are compulsory rules just like political pluralism, the respect for human rights, and for private property. Without these conditions, the issue does not even arise.

The PNL Press Bureau

FRG Bundestag Delegation Arrives

AU1111172390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1529 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/11/1990—Sunday afternoon a delegation of the Bundestag Foreign Relations Commission arrived in Bucharest.

On the Otopeni Airport, Mr. Volkar Kohler, deputy on behalf of the Christian Democratic Union, head of the delegation, made the following statements to a "ROMPRES" news agency editor:

"Although we are during election campaign, we want to inform you, through this visit, that our interest is not only for our eastern neighbours Poland and Czechoslovakia but also for other states, because the democratisation process is in full progress in the entire eastern Europe. As far as Romania is concerned, we want to see on the spot how that process is taking place in your country. We are also interested by the German minority's situation in Romania."

On the same flight arrived from Vienna Mrs. Irene Ruegg and Mr. Fritz Probst, members in the Council of Europe.

Prime Minister Roman To Visit Bonn 28-29 Nov

AU0311160390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1228 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 3/11/1990—Following an invitation from Chancellor Kohl, Prime Minister Petre Roman is expected at Bonn over 28-29 November, on an official working visit.

Iliescu Continues Visit to Japan 8 Nov

AU0811204590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1917 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—Thursday at noon, Romania's President Ion Iliescu left for Tokyo where he will take part in the ceremonies occasioned by the accession to the throne of Japan's emperor, Akihito.

President Iliescu announced before his departure that he would meet the Japanese prime minister, the speakers of the two chambers, representatives of some formations in the Japanese Diet, the Japanese minister of international trade and industry genuine headquarters of Japanese economy as well as the minister of science, university professors, businessmen and representatives of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations Keidanren. It is an extremely busy schedule, including many contacts and talks with political leaders and businessmen. Moreover, given the participation in the Tokyo festivities of many heads of state, heads of governments and official delegations, further contacts are planned with various political leaders of other countries, Mr. Iliescu added.

Roman Receives UN Human Rights Delegation

AU0811213990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2053 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—Romania's Prime Minister Petre Roman received Thursday afternoon a delegation of the UN Commission on Human Rights consisting of Joseph Voyame, special rapporteur, Sousand Raadi, Azara Khch and Carmen Cueros [spelling of names as received], members of the UN Centre Secretariat.

Mr. Joseph Voyame told a ROMPRES editor at the conclusion of the meeting: This is my third visit to Romania on a UN mission, in order to prepare the report of the Commission on Human Rights that will be submitted in February 1991. I have spent eight or nine very pleasant and instructive days in Romania. I met with members of the Government and National Administration as well as with private persons. I travelled to Brasov and Sibiu and I can tell you that everybody addressed me quite openly. I'm most grateful for the reception extended to me by your government and for the permission to move freely, to contact anybody and travel wherever I chose.

Parliament Endorses Extra Powers for Government

AU1211210390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2004 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 12/11/1990—The Senate and the Assembly of Deputies voted, by a majority of votes, after itemised discussions, a decision granting the government, upon the latter's request, special powers in implementing the economic reform.

Opposition senators voted against.

On the strength of this decision, the government is authorised, over the following six months, to decree or alter, without delay, fees and taxes (such measures having to be subsequently submitted to Parliament for approval) and sign in foreign financial loans guaranteed by the state, within the limits of a quarterly plan to be approved by Parliament.

The government's request to be authorised to enforce laws passed by Parliament, even before the date proposed for them to become effective, was also granted.

Both chambers showed their readiness to adopt special legislative procedures apt to speed up the debates on certain bills specified in the prime minister's report, as necessary in stepping up the economic reform.

Senate, Deputies Assembly Meet 8 Nov

AU0811221790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2126 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—On Thursday the Assembly of Deputies held its proceedings by their specialized Standing Commissions.

Analysis was made of new normative acts to be debated next week by the legislative forum: the bills on income tax, on plurality of offices, on the land.

The Mediation Commissions met also on Thursday to solve certain divergences between the Senate and the Assembly of Deputies occasioned by the debates of bills.

Romania's Senate met in plenum on Thursday, November 8. The agenda included two reports of the Mediation Commissions of the two chambers on the bill that deals with employment according to competence and the bill on amendments to the penal procedure code as well as answers of the government to previous questions of the senators.

Roman Denies Assertation of Resignation

AU0811204690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1929 GMT 8 Nov 90

["Government Diary: Premier Rules out the Possibility of a Military Dictatorship"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—The prime minister categorically denied the assertion concerning his resignation, specifying that it was a ROMPRES editor's own interpretation.

During a press conference attended by the Bucharest correspondents of France Presse, Tass, Reuter and Associated Press, Prime Minister Petre Roman explained at length the principles at the basis of price liberalization considered as the only alternative of the transition to market economy in the conditions of the economic crisis in Romania.

The Romanian premier appreciated that decision as a way to differentiate between profit-making enterprises and bankrupt ones, a decision correctly intercepted by the population and trade union organizations.

Commenting upon the government's communique broadcast Wednesday, November 7, regarding abusive prices for certain goods, Mr. Roman characterized that action as an attempt at making illegal profits and rejected the idea that that would represent a concern to seed dissatisfaction among the population.

To prevent such actions and to create the competitive framework characteristic for the market economy, the prime minister announced the soon adoption of a governmental resolution to lease by auction all commercial units.

Answering questions on Romania's future development, he appreciated that in five-six years the economic reforms should lead to a living standard on a par with the whole Europe; he made reference in that context to the necessity of about 2-3 billion dollar credits to relaunch certain economic sectors.

The head of government expressed his concern over the situation in Soviet Moldova and declared himself in principle for the maintenance of that state's territorial integrity, showing that manifestations expressing categorical stands on behalf of Romania's population could appear, but they had no political significance.

Answering a question asked by the Tass correspondent, the prime minister considered the idea of a military dictatorship in Romania a "speculation".

The Civic Alliance is completely out of the public debate process, Premier Roman appreciated and added that that organization expressed radical stands in contradiction with the political, economic and social situation in the country. Such groups have only contestant role and we do not worry about them; much more important is the dialogue with the critical political forces, Premier Roman concluded.

Roman Interviewed on Price Liberalization

AU1111164090 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 2 Nov 90 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Petre Roman by Viorel Salagean in Bucharest on 1 November: "The Government Sticks Firmly to its Position"; first paragraph is ADEVARUL introduction]

[Text] Yesterday, at a news conference at government headquarters, Mr. Petre Roman was kind enough to answer the questions of the ADEVARUL editorial board.

[Salagean] ADEVARUL clarified its position on price liberalization as early as two weeks ago. In recent days, we wondered about the way in which this measure was prepared and about the liberalization ways and means, which are still confusing. Our daily printed more than 20 questions to which experts could not find the answers expected by the economic agents. We suggest that you appoint a governmental spokesman, who can give knowledgeable and authorized answers to this long series of questions.

[Roman] I think this suggestion is most welcome. I believe Finance Minister Stolojan is best qualified to give these answers. We have recently appointed a new state secretary for the Pricing Department. I definitely approve of your desire to clarify all the problems you mentioned. One of the problems raised by you concerns a possible reevaluation of the social capital, through price liberalization. One should realize that this social capital is calculated at the value it had on 1 July 1990. Moreover, the social capital is also expected to yield revenues. This is in keeping with world practice. As far as large enterprises and trade companies—such as the Midia or Pitesti combines—are concerned, the estimation of their social capital is done with the help of known expert international companies, whose competence and honesty cannot be doubted by anyone.

[Salagean] We submit to you a basic problem: Do you not think that—at a time when the state maintains its absolute monopoly over production and the proper privatization action has not yet taken off—the transition to price liberalization actually amounts to withdrawing and taking the money surplus from the citizens' pockets and transferring it into the state's pocket? Why does the state not tackle the two decisive actions needed for the market economy consecutively—privatization and price liberalization—thus rekindling the interest in efficient work?

[Roman] We are now in the phase of establishing autonomous trade companies, which are free to fix their own prices. We have relied on the sense of duty of enterprises and their managements since last January. As a matter of fact, we granted them many facilities, without getting any results in return. They stand to benefit from the kind of situation they have always longed for, as I was personally told during my technical fact-finding visits to various industrial units, in my capacity as a professor. What were they saying then? They were saying: If we were just left to work as we know how, we could do wonders! Well, here they are, we let them to just that, as much as possible. They were given many rights, and what did they do? The economy does not function on the basis of good intentions alone. It functions on the basis of solid principles and negotiations between partners. This is the only real way of getting out of the present deadlock. So that, to start the complex process to which you referred we must first take the economy out of its current impasse. We will thus be able to somehow rely on these newly founded trade companies being able to exercise their rights. In connection with your proposal to also proceed to privatization now, I have often drawn attention to—and I regret that no one noted the inherent danger of privatization—the serious underestimation of the social capital. We have assumed responsibility for this social capital, unlike other political groups, which wanted to turn the links with foreign countries into a simple transit channel. The social capital consists of the work of these people, whom we want to protect. The freed prices will help us relaunch production. In Poland, Hungary, and the Soviet Union, this process has been going on for several years and resulted in serious economic setbacks. For our price liberalization action we consulted more than 20 experts from the IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] and IMF, who considered our package measures as the best and most complete reform.

[Salagean] In view of the acute commodity shortage on the market, however, do you not think that one could have resorted to a gradual and guided liberalization of prices to relaunch production, as happened in other European countries with market economies?

[Roman] Where was this system practiced?

[Salagean] In France, Austria, Belgium, and so forth. In the case of some finished products in Austria, for instance, maximum prices are set for all producers....

[Roman] The important prices—prices for raw materials, energy, and so forth—are also under state control in our country. As far as I know, however, no country controls any prices except those on which the essential functioning of the economy depends. In the discussion you will have with the minister of finance, you should ask him to specify the degree of price liberalization for various sectors. In the light industry, public constructions, and, to a large extent, electrical engineering, prices have been set free in a proportion of 95-98 percent. You should recall that, in the area of price liberalization, the government did nothing but apply Law No. 15. The simple question you are raising here is why this was done now, instead of one or two months later.

Well, we still have two months to negotiate these prices and solve the problems that may arise. As you said, the people in the productive areas want a situation whereby they can prove both their spirit of initiative and their spirit of responsibility at the same time. In other words, they want the truth—that is, the truth about the resources with which they work—a truth which can only be supplied by unrestricted prices. This is how we can achieve the real prices we all need.

Timisoara Protests Against Price Liberalization

AU0811204490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1939 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/11/1990—About 2,000 persons attended a meeting organized in central Timisoara by the "Timisoara" federation of the free trade union organizations in Timis County. The speakers demanded that price liberalization be correlated with concrete and complex social security actions, but they did not contest the necessity of such a measure.

A similar meeting took place in the town of Tirgoviste, organised by the "Cetatea" trade union confederation which gathered the free trade union organizations in the main industrial units in that town.

The participants in both meetings chanted anticommunist, antigovernmental and anti-presidential slogans.

Writers Union Protests Price Liberalization

AU1011144290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0843 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 10/11/1990—The Writers' Union, the Romanian Association of Journalists, the Group for Social Dialogue, Romania's Federation of Publishers and Distributors, the Academic Solidarity, having jointly analysed price liberalisation and its effects, assess it "as a power dictate" "with long-term immeasurable consequences on the Romanian nation," they say in a statement for the press.

The said associations "strongly protest the artificial, more than seven time, rise in the price of paper for the printing of books, school books, newspapers and magazines."

Aware of their responsibilities, the associations decided to set up "The Romanian Federation of Book and Newspapers Publishers" which represent the civilian society in the defence of the right to culture, and called for:

—An immediate support from all political and civic groups and from the press in their campaign to defend these fundamental rights from these arbitrary price rises.

—A televised dialogue with the prime minister and the minister of culture to discuss the way out of the current stalemate.

—A forthright opening of talks with the government to create the framework for the federation's inclusion within the procurement of paper and other specific means.

—Taking into the fact that Romanian culture is a part of the world spiritual heritage, the federation will approach all international organisms in order to get political and material assistance and support to safeguard these basic rights.

Civic Alliance Members Explain Intent

AU0911163790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1438 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 9/11/1990—A press conference was given by several initiators of the Civil Alliance in order to supply the mass media details on their just set-up organisation. Following are excerpts from the answers to the many questions asked by journalists.

Mihai Sora: We thought it would be good to have a structure allowing all tendencies within the civilian society whose real, not only declarative ideals are democracy and the modernisation of Romanian society to act in unity for the country's future.

Stelian Tanase: The Civic Alliance has been established as a fully democratic structure on the basis of individual applications, regardless of political option, as a structure that can make decisions, plan its actions and follow them to the end.

Gabriel Andreescu: The concrete means of action will be, first of all, an appeal to competence, to the intellectuals we have among us. We pursue a polarisation of the existing forces so that they may take civic action therefore neither political, nor apolitical. So, for the Civic Alliance to complete with any political force is something out of the question.

Petre Mihai Bacanu: Our means of action will be the same that any civic force in Europe used. They are for all to see: First of all information, truthful information, reflected in the press and on the TV, then meetings, marches, gatherings, symposia.

The relationship between the Civic Alliance and Antitotalitarian Democratic Forums is simple: Any member of the latter can join the Alliance, but whole organisations may also apply for membership of the Civic Alliance, although the application are individual in principle.

For the time being, the Civic Alliance does not set to itself the aim of becoming a political party, it is nonpartisan. However, if political parties prove incapable of coming up with an alternative to government, the Civic Alliance may field its own candidates.

FSN Vice President on Political Status

AU0911163390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1600 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 9/11/1990—"The National Salvation Front (NSF) [FSN] is not a renovated party. It is a new party emerged at the left of the centre at a moment when the centre and the right already had their parties and the Socialist Democratic Party of Romania did not have much of a say. The Front tends to be a leftist party in a democratic society," writes Mr. Claudiu Iordache, vice president of the National Salvation Front, in a letter to Social Democratic Party President Sergiu Cunescu, published by the daily "AZI."

Lately, opines the author, the Social Democratic Party has become a "doctrinarian authority" and shows that the "true social-democratic commitment in Romania belongs to the ruling party, that is to that party which is in the unenviable position to defy and challenge the national crisis."

As for the Front's prospects, Mr. Claudiu Iordache said: "We want to make our party develop into a political entity apt to attract the support of "the vulnerable," of those citizens whose means of subsistence the crisis threatens to drain. But the Front is now on the crest of the stormy reform wave, nagged at from both the left and the right, simultaneously accused of both slowing down and hasting public destiny. And yet, he underscores, we are living in a time when, if the reform flops, the failure will be blamed not on the Front, but on the political parties."

He further questions the social-democratic leader whether his party intended just to watch what is going on in this country, while the front takes all the risks to give this country a chance.

PNL Issues Communique on Iliescu Statement

AU0911215290 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 2000 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Our editorial board has received the following communique on behalf of the National Liberal Party [PNL]:

Without wanting to start a controversial discussion with Mr. Ion Iliescu, we have to make certain clarifications in connection with his television interview on the evening of 7 November 1990. He said that the PNL's attitude was contradictory because on the one hand, it criticized the government for restraint and lack of courage in applying the reform, and on the other hand for its haste in unrestricting prices.

To eliminate any confusion, we want to clarify as follows: The PNL has criticized the government for its restraint and lack of courage in applying reforms, which have been awaited for a long time. Thus, such issues as the farmers' ownership of lands, the privatization of industry, public services, and trade, and setting up free banking system are still under discussion after five months in power, something that maintains the state monopoly intact. Competition that characterizes a market-oriented economy is nonexistent, while the centralization and bureaucratization of activities is still as powerful as it used to be.

All this has contributed to the degradation of production factors and consequently to a serious decrease in the commodity stock. Under these conditions, the almost complete lack of consumer goods equals the transfer of financial difficulties from the state budget to that of each individual family.

We also believe that in his position as chief of state, the president of the Republic should be above the differences of opinions which may emerge between parties and government in the application of the latter's program.

This communique has been sent to us by the Press Bureau of the PNL.

Craiova Demonstration Resumes 8 Nov

AU0911201190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0900 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 9/11/1990—A demonstration was held Tuesday night [6 November] in Craiova's Prefecture Square by some 40 youth, most of them under 20, shouting antigovernmental and antipresidential slogans.

The municipality's citizens did not react to their "come with us" call.

As previously announced, Wednesday night some 200 youth staged an unauthorized march in the streets of Craiova.

Government Discusses Diplomatic Missions

AU0911201390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1838 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 9/11/1990—Romania's Government gathered on Friday in its weekly working session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Petre Roman. The agenda included a report on Romania's position in the world and the main actions carried out by the Romanian minister of foreign affairs and the diplomatic missions over September 1 - November 7, 1990. Methods of management leasing and renting were next discussed. The last item on the agenda was to submit a number of bills and draft decisions to the government members for remarks and proposals.

There is a positive tendency as regards the interest in developing relations with Romania, both in countries in Europe and on other continents, an improvement, event substantial, in certain zones, showed Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase in the account read during the Friday meeting of the government. There also are reserves the elimination of which depends on the promotion of an accurate image of Romania abroad.

In that context, the government expressed its discontent over the activity of many Romanian diplomatic missions abroad which do not present operatively, clearly and comprehensively the progress Romania has made in the democratization process.

The draft resolution included in the meeting's agenda methods of administration leasing and renting was considered by the government a document which excessively and unjustifiably complicates the way a citizen must follow to get a lease and decided that a simple, concised and operative document be drafted to help the entrepreneurs and not brake the privatisation process.

Next, the government analysed the salary bill as well as other normative acts that are to be submitted to Parliament for debate and approval.

Iliescu Asked To Admit Errors During Jun Events

AU1011172590 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 4-5 Nov 90 pp 1,2

[Interview with University Professor Doctor Mircea Stoica of the Academy of Economic Studies by Anton Uncu; place and date not given: "Before the Parliamentary Investigation Commission"; last two paragraphs are ROMANIA LIBERA additional passage]

[Text] [Uncu] Professor, we know that you participated in the Timisoara international conference from 26-28 October 1990 discussing democracy and human rights. What sections did you attend and what problems did you raise at that conference?

[Stoica] I participated in sections one, three, and six, which actually discussed the most important and difficult problems. I will talk mainly about those discussed within the section entitled "Democracy and Human Rights," where Mr. Gabriel Andreescu presented a paper on the 13-15 June 1990 events on behalf on the Group for Social Dialogue. The conference actually focused exactly on the problems raised in that paper.

[Uncu] The viewpoint and proposals you made in connection with this paper gained loud applause from the participants in the conference. Would you please summarize them, so as to make them known to the public?

[Stoica] To begin with I emphasized that I am making my statements and assessments for the Romanian and international public. Before broaching the core of the subject, I made it possible for the Group for Social Dialogue to present this exceptionally important paper on the 13-15 June 1990 events, which are of particular interest for our entire civic society.

I stressed that in a state of law, where everything is regulated by laws, the law and order established provides for compulsory regulations for both the state and citizens. This concept and practice lends full security to relations between the state and citizens and constitutes a guarantee for the peace and freedom of each individual. After the revolution, the Romanian state should have become the guarantor of justice and public moral conduct, something that could have been achieved only if the Romanian Government had made the decision to struggle against lies and had had the courage to openly admit mistakes. More than five months after the 13-15 June 1990 events, however, one can ask the legitimate question whether President Ion Iliescu, as the chief of state, can still be viewed as a guarantor for public moral conduct. The answer is negative. Mr. Ion Iliescu to this day has not decided to openly admit the truth in front of the Romanian and international public.

A whole nation is accusing Mr. Ion Iliescu of the serious incidents from 13-15 June and demands that the truth be revealed, so that his responsibility may be ascertained. The Parliament has appointed an investigation commission to clarify the events of those dramatic days for the nation. The question arises: Why has Mr. Ion Iliescu not been summoned before this investigation commission? In the United States, when President Richard Nixon was accused by the House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate turned into a judiciary forum and decided to bring charges against the President on charges of bugging telephone conversations. As a result, Richard Nixon resigned. Let us not forget that Richard Nixon was a great president. Yet the American democracy did not forgive him.

My proposal to the participants in this discussion was to submit a resolution to the Timisoara international conference for endorsement, asking the Romanian Parliament to instruct the Parliamentary Investigation Commission to urgently hear Mr. Ion Iliescu with a view to revealing the truth which the whole nation, as well as the international public, have been waiting for.

"A president of a republic," University Professor Mircea Stoica said, "who has lost his moral credibility in front of the nation should tender his resignation."

It is understandable why Romanian Television, which was present at the debates filming and recording the whole speech, did not broadcast it to the public.

Macedonia Holds 1st Multiparty Elections Since War

Simonovic Views Future Outcome

AU0911093990 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 27-28 Oct 90 p 11

[Veselin Simonovic article: "Who Is Going To Come After the King and the Communists?"]

[Text] The king united the first Yugoslavia. The communists created the second one, and then nearly finished it off. Can a third one—now when there is no king and the communists are becoming fewer and fewer—be created by Tudjman, Peterle, Draskovic, Milosevic, Gosev, Bulatovic, Kilibarda, Izetbegovic, Durakovic, Markovic... and how are they going to do it?

The Slovene and Croatian authorities, who were given a mandate at elections to negotiate about the future Yugoslavia, make the cure of the federal state—although the president of the Presidency has already made a correct diagnosis, "slow decay"—conditional upon multiparty elections in all republics. The elections will be held as early as in two months. Now the question arises of what they can change given the present relation of forces.

What can elections in Macedonia bring? The favorites at the moment are the SKM-PDP [League of Communists of Macedonia—Party of Democratic Transformation] and the SRSJ [Alliance of Reformist Forces of Yugoslavia] ("Ante's Party," that is, the "reformers".) So far, the "reformers" have not expressed any preferences about the setup of the Yugoslav state, but it is certain that what they want is not only stable money, but also a federal state. The president's popularity among the "thirsty" Macedonians, who are nowadays more and more hungry as well, can be seen in the way he was welcomed in Skopje: Just as Josip Broz used to be in the past.

The second most popular politician in the poorest republic is Petar Gosev, head of the Macedonian communists, whose "rating," by the way, is increasing at the same rate at which that of the Macedonian deputy to the Federal Presidency [Vasil Tupurkovski] is falling! It is certainly thanks most to Gosev that the republic's firm "federalist" stand has been abating. The president of the SKM- PDP is of the opinion that there are increasingly fewer chances for an agreement on a life in a modern federal state, and he even adds: "If everybody else is prepared to pay for an expensive confederation, we will then do so too." Gosev does not agree with Yugoslavia's dividing into states, some of them with confederate and some with federal status, because, in his opinion, that would mean that somebody had already made their exit. It is clear that the main question in Macedonia is whether the communists or the "reformers" will win, or perhaps they will form a coalition together. Therefore, one should not expect this republic's attitude toward Yugoslavia to change: The main orientation is nevertheless a federation.

Who Is Macedonia's Nanny?

Gosev makes Macedonia's staying in Yugoslavia conditional upon Slovenia's and Croatia's staying, not only out of patriotism, but, one would rather say, out of fear that Serbia would play a dominant role in the remainder of Yugoslavia. This is best confirmed by his following words: "We do not want an inferior position." Here is another statement he has made: "We do not want it (confederation) just as we do not want to have a nanny in a mini Yugoslavia." After all, some even smaller states exist, he adds. We would add something to this: Yes, there are smaller states, but, at least in Europe—apart from Albania—there are none poorer.

The radical national parties—the VMRO [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization] and the MAAK [Movement For All-Macedonian Action]—also play some role on the Macedonian political scene, although the "thirsty" Macedonians find their extreme nationalism hard to swallow.

The communists and "reformers" in Bosnia-Hercegovina will help the elections there to avoid turning into a census of citizens over 18. Along with the Muslim SDA [Party of Democratic Action], these two parties are the strongest in Bosnia, as well as in Hercegovina. An overall campaign against "Ante's Party" seems to be only another seasoning for the Bosnian political stew. The reformers have been attracting "half-Serbs," "half-Muslims," and "half-Croats" away from the nationalist parties, so the latter's anger is understandable, but why then is Nijaz Durakovic, leader of the League of Communists of Bosnia-Hercegovina, declaring "war until extermination" to the reformers? The "last but one Yugoslav communist" is justifying this with the SRSJ leader's anticommunism, but, in fact, the secret lies above all in the competition that the SRSJ represents to the League of Communists, because both "target" the same section of the electorate. It is obvious that, just as in Macedonia, the "reformers" can hope for an enviable result, albeit not a landslide, something that, after all, hardly any party in Bosnia-Hercegovina can expect.

The communists' main trump—and they are now threatening people throughout Bosnia with a civil war—is that they offer peace and equality. Thus, Durakovic says in the old Bolshevik style that a civil war is possible, that its scenarios have already been made, but he does not want to say who is standing behind them. The "exclusive peace-forming party," as Aleksandar Tijanic [Belgrade journalist] calls the League of Communists of Bosnia-Hercegovina, or the anational (what an ugly word!) party, as Durakovic calls it, is resolute in its support for federation, because a confederation would start a battle over Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The SDA (which, as its leader Alija Izetbegovic puts it, resembles its people) is certainly the strongest party. Since Muslims—and this is no secret—are the most numerous, the reformers and communists are going to cause the least damage to their party. Izetbegovic says that in his opinion, the division of Bosnia would mean a civil war, but when it comes to the federation-confederation question, the answers he provides are ambiguous. Although any kind of coalition between two national parties (after the elections) would create a justified feeling of endangerment among the third nation, one can assume that the SDA would rather go into coalition with the HDZ [Croatian Democratic Community] than with any other party. In that case, Bosnia-Hercegovina would be closer to the "western alternative."

Bourgeois or Islamic Republic

What SDA Leader Izetbegovic wants is to bring all Bosnians through the "fear stage"—this is probably why in his Kladusa speech he threatened with arms, while some people were invoking even Saddam Husayn—only in order to bring them, as he puts it, into a bourgeois republic later. However, he is of the opinion that an Islamic republic can exist in the heart of Europe and on the eve of the 21st century. However, this obviously cannot be Bosnia because he himself has said that Bosnia-Hercegovina cannot be a national state.

For a salary of 4,000 Deutsche Marks, former journalist Stjepan Kljujic agreed to become the head of the HDZ branch in Bosnia-Hercegovina. His predecessor had not been replaced primarily for "inappropriate heritage," but because he carried out an autonomous policy. That clearly shows where the HDZ would like to lead Bosnia. The fact that the Serbian Democratic Party and its leader, Radovan Karadzic, would like to lead Bosnia-Hercegovina to the other side, across the Drina, is nothing new. The Muslims make the federation conditional upon Slovenia's and Croatia's remaining in it, and we do not, Karadzic says. Why it is so is not hard to guess. However, neither the Serbian Democratic Party nor the HDZ can become the strongest party.

Just as in Bosnia-Hercegovina and in Macedonia, in Montenegro, most of the accusations of the strongest parties are directed against the "reformers." In a coalition with some minor parties, the SRSJ will represent very strong competition to the League of Communists and to the Peoples' Party. The communists, headed by "meritorious old fighters," Momir Bulatovic and Milo Djukanovic, still enjoy the greatest popularity in our smallest republic. In Djukanovic's opinion, confederation is a false possibility and the only real one is a modern federal state, that is, a federation. Similar views of Yugoslavia to those of the communists are harbored by the People's Party or "Kilibarda's troubadours," as some people call it, a party which builds up its image on convincing the Montenegrins that they are Serbs. Therefore, even after the elections are held, one cannot expect anything new in that republic.

The situation in Serbia is almost identical. The stands of the ruling party do not differ much from those of the opposition: Either a federation or a change of internal borders. The only difference is that Vuk Draskovic, leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, the strongest party after the Socialist Party of Serbia, for instance, would like to rearrange Yugoslavia in a somewhat different manner: If Serbia has provinces, then Croatia also must grant autonomy to the Serbs, to Istria, and Dubrovnik, and Bosnia-Hercegovina would be divided into four regions.

All in all, whichever of the favorites wins, Serbia will support federation. The parties which will most probably win in Macedonia are closer to a federation, although they do not completely reject other models. As for Montenegro, there are no chances of changes there either, while in Bosnia-Hercegovina, if the communists and reformers receive over 50 percent of the votes, federation is a more probable solution. In case the SDA turns out to be the strongest and lets the HDZ join it, anything is possible. Slovenia and Croatia support, it is known, either a confederation or a "silent dispersal."

Ethnic Albanians Return To Vote

AU1111150490 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The first multiparty elections will be held in Macedonia tomorrow. At present there is the so-called preelection blackout, but great importance is nevertheless being attached to these elections. This is illustrated by a mass arrival of the citizens of Macedonia who are temporarily working abroad and Macedonians who have emigrated to other countries. Yesterday and today, Skopje and Ohrid airports were full of Albanians for whom their party, the Party for Democratic Prosperity, provided organized charter flights.

The result of great interest in the elections is also the arrival of several foreign delegations, who will attend the elections as observers, and journalists from some 20 foreign news agencies.

The elections are uncertain and predicting a winner is an ungrateful task. In any case, of the 16 parties participating, those with the greatest chance are, in addition to the aforementioned Albanian party, the League of Communists of Macedonia, the Alliance of Reform Forces, and the National Bloc, which includes the VMRO [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization] and the MAAK [Movement for All-Macedonian Action]. [passage omitted]

Macedonians Head for Polls

LD1111124490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0955 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Skopje, 11 Nov (TANJUG)—At 0700 this morning, the citizens of Macedonia started to head for polling stations to cast their vote in the first multiparty elections held since the war.

About 1.37 million voters will take a secret ballot to choose from 1,156 candidates for the 120 seats in the republican parliament as well as 1,300 deputies to 33 municipal assemblies and the 70-strong municipal Assembly of Skopje.

The citizens will cast their votes in over 3,000 places that have been modified to accomodate polling stations all over Macedonia.

In the first multiparty election in Macedonia, 16 political parties have put forward candidates and there are also 40 independent candidates.

The first multiparty elections in Macedonia have attracted a great deal of attention among Macedonian citizens living abroad. About 10,000 citizens have arrived from Western European countries and overseas, with the elections being the sole motive. About 40 foreign correspondents are reporting on the elections in Macedonia.

Poll Shows Communists Ahead

AU0911150390 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 8 Nov 90 p 3

["N.B."-signed report: "The League of Communists of Macedonia-Party of Democratic Transformation Still in the Lead"]

[Text] Skopje—According to the latest public opinion survey by the Institute for Sociological and Political-Legal Research in Skopje, the League of Communists of Macedonia-Party of Democratic Transformation is supported by the largest number of voters, 19.06 percent, prior to elections in Macedonia. The same results were also shown in earlier surveys conducted by this institute and the polls by NOVA MAKEDONIJA and the Skopje VECER.

In second place with 18.95 percent is the Party of Democratic Prosperity, which rallies primarily Albanians, and in third place, with 14.5 percent but with a considerable gain in support, is the Alliance of Reform Forces of Yugoslavia for Macedonia, which had only received 5.5 percent of support in previous surveys by this institute. A considerable increase in support was recorded for the VMRO-PDMNE [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization- Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity] from 2.2 percent to 6.67 percent and the same was true for the MAAK [Movement for All-Macedonian Action] too.

The number of respondents who were undecided or who will not vote has been decreasing as the elections approach, and it could be said that those who are undecided may vote for the Alliance of Reform Forces or for the so-called national parties.

The institute stresses that this is not some kind of forecast which has pretensions to being exact, particularly if it is known that the number of undecided voters continues to be large and amounts to 17.43 percent, which is quite a high percentage. The poll was carried out in 60 percent of the total 120 constituencies, that is to say, in 18 out of 33 Macedonian communes.

Electoral Laws Allegedly Disregarded

LD1111163690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1525 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Skopje, 11 Nov (TANJUG)—The Alliance of Reformist Forces [Savez Reformskih Snaga] of Macedonia and the Macedonian League of Communists - Party for Democratic Transformation today filed a complaint with the republican Electoral Commission which stressed that, during today's first multiparty elections in Macedonia, the electoral laws are not being observed at certain polling stations.

In fact, these parties point out that in various constituencies in Ohrid, Gostivar and the Skopje municipality of Cair, campaigning still being carried out by the Party for Democratic Prosperity. This is against the rules of behavior on election day.

Radio Reports on Elections

AU1111171990 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Milos Rajkovic report from Skopje—live]

[Text] Elections at 120 constituencies in Macedonia are taking place in complete order and, I would say, in a fully dignified atmosphere. According to the data issued by the republican Electoral Commission, as of 1330 [1230 GMT] every fifth citizen had voted. This number, however, differs for different communes: For example, this morning, 30 percent of the citizens voted in Resen, while only 5.5 percent came out in Kocane.

Let us recall, almost 1.4 million citizens who have the right to vote should vote today for 120 deputies to the future unicameral republican parliament. There are 1,156 candidates from 16 political parties. Deputies to communal assemblies and to the Skopje City Assembly should also be voted for today.

Of course, a major political event such as these elections always involve some problems. Thus, a story has leaked here in the building of the Macedonian Assembly which also houses a press center, that according to current voters lists, the number of voters is smaller by as many as 100,000 than the number of adult citizens of Macedonia according to the 1971 census. This story sounds unbelievable, in particular because of a high birthrate in the meantime, so a large number of Yugoslav and foreign journalists are impatiently waiting for the republican Electoral Commission to explain this.

News has arrived from Sydney, Australia, where about 60,000 Macedonian emigrants are living. They threaten to demonstrate in front of the Yugoslav Consulate because no ballot papers have arrived from any Macedonian town, except for Ohrid.

There are three delegations of foreign observers here to monitor Macedonian elections: a U.S. Congressional Commission for the CSCE, a delegation of the International Affairs Institute of the U.S. Republican Party, and a delegation from the Canadian Parliament.

First Results To Be Reported 12 Nov

AU1111201290 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Dragan Stavljanin report, following the closing of polling stations in Macedonia, in Skopje—live]

[Excerpts] Although final results on the number of voters who performed their civic duties have still not been announced, according to all indicators, one can assume that the elections have been successful because more than one-half of the electorate has turned out.

According to the data issued at 1700 [1600 GMT], more than 50 percent of Macedonian citizens voted in 26 out of 34 communes. Today's elections also included some uncertainties and even incidents, most of which involved the Albanian Party of Democratic Prosperity. As one could learn unofficially, it has been recorded that some people—primarily ethnic Albanians—tried to vote at one polling station with a passport and then at another with an identification card.

A man who did not want to give his name came to the press center, presented two passports and asked how this phenomenon could be prevented. Nikola Koneski, president of the Republican Electoral Commission, said that voters' lists will be compared and if such cases are established, criminal reports will be filed against the perpetrators.

It has also been recorded that some ethnic Albanians tried to vote on behalf of their entire family. Their party, the Party of Democratic Prosperity in Kicevo transferred ballot boxes to their party headquarters.

Finally, this party campaigned today too, even though it is not allowed and then asked that voting hours be extended. [passage omitted]

The most important thing is, however, who will receive the majority of votes. The first, unofficial results will be known tomorrow evening.

Legality of Elections Questioned

LD1111202490 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] According to the latest news, polling stations throughout Macedonia, where the first multiparty elections were held today, were closed at 1900. According to incomplete details from the republican Electoral Commission, more than 60 percent of electorate had cast their vote as of 1600. Marija Damjanovska reports:

[Damjanovska] Polling stations are closed. The Party for Democratic Prosperity from Tetovo, which predominantly rallies Albanians, has forwarded a demand to the republican Electoral Commission to extend the voting time. It was stated by a representative of the Electoral Commission at a news conference at 1730 that such a demand had been received but that the commission had not taken any stance yet.

While voting in electoral units populated primarily by Macedonians passed without any euphoria, polling stations in municipalities predominantly populated by Albanians were almost besieged. Citizens were brought to polling stations on stretchers; at many electoral units one person of Albanian nationality would vote for his numerous fellow citizens; and behind a screen a group of people would vote together, under the pretext of being illiterate.

Most interest at a noon news conference focused on a decision by the republican Electoral Commission to enable citizens from abroad to vote upon the presentation of their passports, instead of the usual presentation of their identification cards, which enabled some to cast their vote at two or even more polling stations. Asked about the lawfulness of this, the republican commission replied that the electoral law does not allow such a possibility, but owing to the fact that a passport contains all relevant details, such a decision was reached today. All parties except the Albanian bloc issued a protest to the republican commission today and demanded that the votes cast upon the presentation of passports should be annulled, because it could have a considerable influence on the outcome of the elections. The Electoral Commission also received many protests from citizens as well as Macedonians living overseas who were not able to take part in the elections because they were not informed that such a possibility existed.

It will not be surprising if parties call for the annullment of the elections.

Kratovo Results Show Highest Turnout

LD1211000790 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatia 2256 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Skopje, 11 Nov (TANJUG)—According to incomplete results confirmed so far, over 70 percent of the republic's citizens with the right to vote went to the polls today in the first multiparty secret elections in Macedonia. According to Nikola Koneski, chairman of the republic's Electoral Commission, the highest turnout was in Kratovo—over 80 percent; followed by Gevgelija and Bitol—over 70 percent; Strumica—over 68 percent; and Berovo—about 64 percent.

Of five Skopje municipalities the highest turnout was in the Centar municipality—over 75 percent; and the Cair municipality—nearly 76 percent of registered voters. In some electoral units the turnout was over 90 percent; while in some, for instance electoral units four and nine in Bitol, the turnout was 100.18 and 100.53 percent. In these electoral units a large number of people whose names were subsequently added on electoral lists were allowed to cast their votes.

Although Nikola Koneski insisted that there had been no reports about any serious violation of the electoral law and procedures, some of the parties have already reacted by submitting concrete objections to what they consider to be irregularities. The All-Macedonian Action Movement [Pokret za Svemakedonsku Akciju—MAAK] announced that it will protest serious violations of the electoral law and procedures in over 30 electoral units, and that it will call for the results in some electoral units to be declared null and void. The MAAK also expressed great dissatisfaction with the composition of the polling committees in the electoral units which the MAAK did not contest. The most serious objection will be made concerning the fact that several thousand Macedonian emigrants in overseas countries could not take advantage of their legitimate right to vote due to bad organization. The SKM-Party of Democratic Transformation [SKM-Partija za Demokratski Preobrazaj], the Alliance of Reformist Forces [Savez Reformskih Snaga], and the VMRO [Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity] have all voiced their objections or criticism.

Elections Criticized for Irregularities

AU1211132590 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Many citizens protested last night and today because of irregularities in the election procedure at the first multiparty parliamentary elections in Macedonia. Sharp criticism has been leveled at the republican electoral commission. Many citizens are calling on it to resign and for new elections to be organized in western Macedonia.

Yesterday's surprise decision by the commission to allow citizens, who were not on the electoral register, to vote only with a passport was abused in many cases, the citizens claim.

Unity Front Announces Withdrawal

LD1211152190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1315 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Skopje, 12 Nov (TANJUG)—The Front for Macedonian National Unity, which is made up of the "alternative" parties—the Movement for all-Macedonian Action, the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization—Democratic Party of Macedonian National Unity, the National Party and the Democratic Alliance—Farmers' Party—which has also been joined by the Workers' Party of Macedonia, announced at noon today that they consider yesterday's first multiparty elections in Macedonia to be undemocratic and irregular. The parties in the National Front and the Workers' Party of Macedonian will withdraw their candidates as representatives and deputies, regardless of whether they have been elected in yesterday's first round of voting.

These five parties advocate, their representatives say, the creation of a transitional administration which will organize fresh and fair elections. According to the leader of the Front, the sympathizers of these parties are prepared at any moment to come out on to the streets throughout Macedonia, and in this way express their disgust with the irregularities of the elections.

Election Will Not Be Cancelled

LD1211154190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1323 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Skopje, 12 Nov (TANJUG)—"The citizens of Macedonia have already cast their vote for deputies and delegates to the republic parliament and municipal assemblies. Therefore, any boycott or cancellation of the republican elections is out of the question", representatives of the republican Electoral Commission told TANJUG today, in reply to the demands of the All-Macedonian National Front to annul the elections.

"Those who are labeling the elections as illegal have no legal authority, since they did not announce the elections—nor did they hold them. The first multiparty elections in the republic were announced by the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia, and were carried out by the electoral commissions. The elections will be repeated only in those constituencies where irregularities or breaches of electoral procedures have been spotted. The Republican Electoral Commission is awaiting the election results, the republican Electoral Commission representatives stressed."

Elections Annulled in Tetovo

LD1211175690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1521 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Tetovo, 12 Nov (TANJUG)—Due to irregularities in work, unregistered voters, the prevention of a large number of citizens from voting, the lack of ballot papers, as well as other failings, the municipal election commission in Tetovo has decided to annul yesterday's elections. These are the constituencies: Numbers 9, 12, 13 and 14 in the Teteks community and Number 18 in the Mirce Acev community.

This was announced to journalists today by Velko Paunovski, chairman of this commission in Tetovo.

Throughout the commune of Tetovo a large number of Macedonians especially are disgusted at the numerous failings during these multiparty elections in Macedonia. There is a special reaction against the fact that members of the Albanian nationality intentionaly and in an organized way created crowds at polling stations, thus preventing Macedonians from voting despite waiting several hours.

In front of the Tetovo municipal assembly building and in the chamber itself, a large number of Macedonians from this multinational town in western Macedonia have been protesting and energetically demanding that effective and concrete measures be taken to eliminate the irregularities in the work of the national authorities in the Tetovo region.

LC Denies Coalition With Democrats

LD1211184690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1528 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Skopje, 12 Nov (TANJUG)—The Macedonian League of Communists [LC]—Party for Democratic Transformation (SKM-PDP) maintains that the first pluralist parliamentary elections in Macedonia must be repeated in those constituencies where certain irregularities have been observed and where the law on elections has been violated. This was pointed out at today's press conference by Petar Gosev, president of the SKM-PDP, who categorically rejected the malicious allegation that his party is a so-called coalition with the Party for Democratic Prosperity. SKM-PDP, stressed Petar Gosev, will not form a coalition with parties which foment national hatred.

Petar Gosev also put forward his party's objections addressed to the republican electoral commission, including their decision to allow voting on the presentation of a passport. Also, SKM-PDP reacted to the irregularity concerning ballot-papers, the illegal photocopying of these documents, and the changing of polling stations.

In reply to question about how this party views the decision of the National Front to withdraw its candidates from the second round of elections, Gosev said that the results of the first round will show the overall feeling of Macedonian voters. It could happen, he stressed, that the results of the first round show that some parties would have no one to withdraw at all. This is why we must wait for the outcome.

Five Macedonian Deputies Elected

LD1211203290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2032 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Summary] Skopje, 12 Nov (TANJUG)—According to the initial, incomplete information only five deputies managed to secure seats in the future Macedonian parliament after the first round of votes. They are: Petar Gosev and Simeon Ivanovski from the Macedonian League of Communists-Party for Democratic Transformation; Ljubosav Ivanovski from the Macedonian Socialist Party; and Dzeladin Murati and Ismet Ramadani, both from the Party for Democratic Prosperity. Also according to the initial information, 131 candidates from 36 constituencies will contest 115 deputy seats in the second round of votes. It appears at the moment that candidates from the Macedonian Alliance of Reformist Forces and the Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity have the best chance since they gained more than seven percent of the votes, which is necessary to qualify for the second round.

Slovenian President on Future of Republics

LD1011215190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1944 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Catez, Yugoslavia, 10 Nov (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav republics are risking serious economic and political isolation if they do not find a peaceful way to agree on a common future, Slovenian Republican President Milan Kucan warned today.

Speaking at a rally in Catez, a small town in the interior of Slovenia, Kucan expressed readiness for active cooperation in the shaping of a new agreement on future life which would be acceptable to all.

That part of Europe which we wish to join justly expects us peacefully to settle relations in our home where we all live together, that we do not burn it down or tear it apart, Kucan said.

The road to sovereignty and statehood which Slovenia has chosen is at the same time a condition for joining the European community on an equal basis, Kucan said.

The Slovenian republican president said that the interests, and even the survival of the Slovenian people, have been jeopardized in the insupportable relations in Yugoslavia.

Slovenia wishes to use the right to self-determination, without threatening the territorial integrity and internal borders of Yugoslavia, the president of the most developed Yugoslav republic said here today.

Knin Serbs Express Desire for Sovereign State

AU1011161990 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 29 Oct 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The Right Is Gaining in Strength"]

[Text] Knin—In an exclusive interview which Jovan Raskovic granted to Serbian Radio Knin upon his return from the United States and Canada, the president of the Serbian Democratic Party said that more than $300,000 had been collected in the United States and Canada for Serbian television in Croatia.

Raskovic stressed that Serbian television in Croatia will be located in Knin in cooperation with Belgrade Television and that interest in watching this program was also expressed in the United States.

Answering the question on how he assessed the current situation in Croatia, Raskovic said that the increasing strong right wing of the Croatian Democratic Community is conducting an arrogant policy toward the Serbs living in Croatia.

If Yugoslavia breaks up, the Serbs in Croatia will strive for the creation of a new state—the Krajina state [Krajiska drzava] which will not be another Serbia but a modern sovereign state, Raskovic stressed, adding that Serbs will strive for their statehood without shedding blood.

Slovenia, Croatia Shift Policy; Reject Secession

LD1211125790 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1146 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Belgrade, 12 Nov (TANJUG)—Leading political (?figures) in the Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia have over the past few days explicitly stated their support for the survival of the country within its present borders, indicating a major shift in policy.

The authorities of Slovenia and Croatia (?have) hitherto often threatened with secession from Yugoslavia unless the country is transformed from its present federal form into a confederation.

"Slovenia will not secede," Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Dimitrij Rupel told the Belgrade daily BORBA during the past weekend. Rupel said "Slovenia neither has the intention to secede nor any interest in such a move."

Rupel holds that the Yugoslav republics will succeed in reaching accord on a confederal organization of the country—an alliance of independent states.

Stipej Mesic, Croatia's representative in the Yugoslav State Presidency and its vice-president, has also said he favours the retention of Yugoslavia's current state and republican frontiers.

In an interview to the politically unaffiliated weekly VREME, Mesic said the inter-republican frontiers would be impossible to alter without a civil war.

In view of this, he called for accord between the "federalist" and the "confederalists" on the future of the country to be reached in an atmosphere of tolerance and without pressures, at the same time warning that all other approaches would lead to a "dismembering of Yugoslavia by way of a military option or other forms of strife."

Croatian Prime Minister Josip Manolic said in an interview published in the Zagreb daily VJESNIK on Sunday [11 November] that "the external frontiers can remain intact if it suits the world." within the country, he added, Croatia desires the creation of "relations which would ensure the full sovereignty of every state."

A secession from Yugoslavia would cost Slovenia about 438 million dollars, the Ljubljana daily DELO says, calling the sum no great financial catastrophe. DELO has calculated that Slovenia's post-secession expenses would amount to 8,138 million dollars, while the republic would at the same time save 7,700 million, with the difference between the two figures representing the cost of the secession.

Federal Chamber Adopts Decisions on Crisis

LD1011003890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1922 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 9 Nov (TANJUG)—The mandate of the present composition of delegates was extended today at the session of the Yugoslav Assembly's Federal Chamber so that the constitutional and political preconditions for the normal functioning of all the federal organs would be ensured after the new year.

In the conclusions adopted regarding consideration of the program of activities to resolve the constitutional crisis, it is assessed that the conditions have been achieved for a separate decision to be adopted on extending the mandate, on the basis of a constitution which enables such a procedure.

The mandate was also extended because the constitutional and legal conditions do not exist for the holding of elections to the Federal Chamber by the end of this year.

The legislative and legal commission will prepare a draft decision on the extension of the mandate before the new chamber session, scheduled for 15-16 November of this year.

The Yugoslav Assembly's Federal Chamber will, in the framework of its authority, set out the methods and procedures for resolving the crisis of the constitutional system of the SFRY. This method and procedure, it says in the conclusions, will be specified by the adoption of an act which will be proposed by the commission for constitutional questions of the SFRY Assembly. The concrete content of this act will be established in the SFRY Assembly, and work on it should begin immediately, so that its adoption can go ahead immediately after the implementation of multiparty elections.

In a several-hour-long debate during which more than 30 delegates took part, support was given, in the conclusions as well, to the assessment of the SFRY Presidency that the constitutional system is suffering a crisis which is threatening to block it completely.

Pending final agreement on a new constitutional and legal system for the country, the republics, as the main exponents of the agreement, will refrain from passing all acts which contravene the SFRY Constitution and Federal laws, and all regulations contradicting the Constitution and federal laws will be annulled, the chamber conclusions, adopted by a majority vote, stress.

The Federal Chamber today also adopted changes to the law on the population census which envisage the collection of data based upon religious affiliation. [passage omitted]

Assembly Rejects Emergency Proposal on Kosovo

LD0911115190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0930 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Nov (TANJUG)—The Federal Chamber of the Yugoslav Assembly has rejected by a majority of votes the demand of delegate Riza Aljaji that the proposal of a group of delegates of Albanian nationality for the adoption by emergency procedure of a "resolution on establishing constitutional order in Kosovo" should be placed on the agenda of today's session.

This will be discussed at one of the coming sessions of the chamber when the competent committee of this Assembly chamber has given prior consideration to the proposal.

In the proposed resolution on Kosovo, 14 delegates to the Federal Chamber from that province demand, amongst other things, the abolition of the law on the suspension of the Assembly and Executive Council of Kosovo and all other administrative measures adopted by the Serbian Assembly, because they have, it is stressed, led to an unconstitutional situation in the province and the virtual termination of its autonomy.

Mesic Hopes Elections Can Bring Political Peace

LD0911233490 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1906 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Dugi Rat, Yugoslavia, 9 Nov (TANJUG)—Vice-President of the Yugoslav State Presidency Stipe Mesic said today he hoped the democratic elections in the four remaining republics (scheduled for this and next month) would bring the country the "political peace" necessary for economic prosperity.

Speaking at the opening of a factory in the town of Dugi Rat, in the republic of Croatia, Mesic, a Croat, warned that any redrawing of internal frontiers in Yugoslavia would result in the "shedding of much blood," which would have to be followed by the signing of a peace agreement.

"Why shed blood? Let us instead sit down at the negotiating table at once," Mesic said, addressing primarily the authorities in the neighboring republic of Serbia, which the Croatian authorities regard as the creators of the idea of the autonomy of the Serbian people in Croatia. This idea has for several months now been the cause of much ethnic tension in some parts of Croatia.

Accusing the Serbian authorities of advocating a federal organization of the country while charging the western republics of Slovenia and Croatia with efforts to dismember Yugoslavia, Mesic said the Serbian authorities were at the same time doing all in their might for Serbia itself to become independent.

NIN Claims Army Involved in Forming New Party

LD0911134190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1136 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Nov (TANJUG)—The Belgrade weekly NIN today claims, quoting "well-informed sources", that the Yugoslav Army leadership and "a certain number" of former party and state officials are trying to form a new Yugoslav party.

So far there is no official confirmation or denial of the weekly's report. The Yugoslav Army leadership has not reacted.

NIN says that Belgrade has for months been the scene of meetings attended by Yugoslav Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic, former top military officials Branko Mamula and Stevan Mirkovic, former presidents of the Yugoslav State Presidency Lazar Mojsov and Raif Dizdarevic, Federal; Minister of the Interior Petar Gracanin and a number of other politicians and retired generals.

NIN says that the meetings were held with the objective of setting up an organisation, under the working title "The Democratic Party of Yugoslav Communists", aimed at succeeding the until recently ruling party in the country—the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

The weekly, close to the [words indistinct] assesses that this is yet another attempt to "save Yugoslavia 'from above', without the consent and against the will of Yugoslav nations."

Movement To Lift Suspension of Kosovo Parliament

LD1011055290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2303 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Nov (TANJUG)—Ethnic Albanians in Yugoslavia's province of Kosovo today launched a "three-pronged attack" for lifting the suspension of the provincial parliament and government, in effect since early July this year.

Reinstitution of the provincial government and assembly are among the major demands contained in a resolution on Kosovo, submitted to the federal parliament by 14 ethnic Albanian delegates.

The delegates maintain that the suspension of the Kosovo parliament has resulted in "an unconstitutional order in the province, whose autonomy has been practically abolished".

Kosovo is one of the two autonomous provinces within the Republic of Serbia.

The federal parliament has postponed a debate on this document until it has been reviewed by the competent parliamentary committee.

The Presidency of Kosovo has also come out with a demand for "restoring the constitutional order in Kosovo".

In a statement released today from sessions held on Wednesday [7 November] and Thursday, the provincial Presidency seeks an equal participation of Kosovo Albanians in a dialogue on the future of Yugoslavia and warns that all future federal acts will be illegitimate unless the Kosovo parliament and its bodies should also take part in their adoption.

TANJUG has been informed that the move was opposed by two Serbs on the Kosovo Presidency.

At a press conference in the provincial capital Pristina, Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of the biggest ethnic Albanian party, the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, described the lifting of the suspension of the Kosovo parliament as the condition for stabilizing the situation in the province.

The parliament of Serbia suspended the Kosovo parliament on July 5, three days after the provincial parliament's ethnic Albanian members had adopted a declaration on Kosovo's independence.

Markovic's Party Criticizes Minister Bogdanovic

LD0911151190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1327 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Nov (TANJUG)—The Serbian branch of the Alliance of Reformist Forces of Yugoslavia, a party initiated by Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic, today sent an open letter to Serbian Interior Minister Radmilo Bogdanovic, expressing concern that the republican police did not react to three Belgrade incidents aimed against the alliance.

The letter mentions two instances of disturbing the rallies held by the alliance in Belgrade—at one of them, novelist Mirko Kovac, a member of the alliance, was attacked and injured—and the breaking of windows at the party's headquarters.

The Serbian branch of the party underlines that it had twice demanded protection from the Belgrade police. It was refused both times—the first time by saying "this is the democracy you urge", and the second by stating "we protect the ruling party".

The Serbian branch of the alliance says that the persons who disturbed its rallies are well-known to the Serbian police and that they are "professional provokers". The group is "rumoured to enjoy police protection as a fist and assault unit of certain political forces", the branch says.

The letter to Bogdanovic draws his attention to the fact that all Serbian citizens are equal in the eyes of the law and that the units he heads are paid with the taxpayers' money to protect public order and the lives and property of citizens, and not to lecture on democracy and guard only the ruling party.

The Alliance of Reformist Forces of Yugoslavia for Serbia is an officially registered party and will participate in the multi-party parliamentary elections in Serbia, scheduled for December 9.

Envoy to UN Urges Peace Conference on Mideast

LD1011051290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2240 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] United Nations, 9 Nov (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia and the other non-aligned countries estimate that the time is right for the U.N. Security Council to take urgent action to prepare the convention of an international peace conference of the Middle East, which should be attended on an equal footing by all interested sides, including the Palestine Liberation Orgnaization (PLO) and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The above was said by Yugoslavia's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Darko Silovic, taking the floor in a debate on U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Ceullar's report on the tragic events in Jerusalem on October 8.

Yugoslavia urges the Security Council and the U.N. to exercise their authority to force Isarel to abide by international legal acts, including the Geneva Convention in the conduct of a force of occupation, in order to preclude the occurence of events like the one that happened on the tragic day in October outside the Al-Axa Mosque.

Gulf Crisis' Adverse Affects on Economy Viewed

AU1011165590 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 31 Oct 90 p 2

["M.M."-signed report: "Damage Beyond Limits"]

[Text] Belgrade—The consequences of the crisis in the Gulf are unforeseeable for the Yugoslav economy but their alleviation has not been left haphazardly. The federal government and banks which have given guarantees for operations in Iraq and Kuwait are doing everything to ensure that enterprises do not bear the cost by themselves of all the damage caused by abandoning building sites and halting the work in progress. Judging by the information that could be heard at yesterday's seminar on the consequences of the crisis in the Gulf, which was organized by the Center for Business Information of the JUBMES [Yugoslav Bank for International Economic Cooperation] and the Center for International Cooperation and Development in Ljubljana, it is difficult to expect direct compensation for the damage. However, the postponement in the repayment of loans to international financial institutions, exemptions from various obligations, and the activity of the Federal Executive Council in looking for new operations abroad will make it possible for part of the Yugoslav economy which has been most hit by the events in the Gulf to equip itself as soon as possible for work.

The consequences of the application of sanctions is adverse in several ways—the financial situation has deteriorated in many enterprises and banks, and JUBMES and foreign currency losses by the end of the year will amount to between $1.1 billion to $1.2 billion while potential losses after 1990 could be around a billion dollars a year, Mile Njegovan from the Federal Secretariat for Development said.

Around 360 of our workers are still on building sites in Iraq protecting social property, Mile Stojanovski, vice president of the Economic Chamber of Yugoslavia, said. It is now certain that debts of $2.052 billion will not be recouped and that the total negative effect on the country's balance of trade this year will be $1.350 billion.

The crisis in the Gulf has also revealed many of our weaknesses: We did not insure work abroad; we are not able to react quickly; the price of crude oil is not satisfactory for us and the sources of supply have not been precisely stated, Bozo Jovanovic, deputy federal secretary for relations with foreign countries, stressed. A real assessment of the damage is not possible because this involves different time frames for loans to mature but oil-exporting countries could help us by selling oil at official OPEC prices.

The proposed solutions also included one by Sejdalija Sucesko, one of the directors of the Sarajevo "Hidrogradnja" firm, who said that new business should be found as soon as possible on new foreign sites, for example, in Libya and favorable foreign loans sought.

Serbia's Radmilovic Meets Helsinki Rights Group

LD0911233190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1902 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Nov (TANJUG)—There is no obstacle for delegations of international organizations to visit the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia as long as they, in keeping with international documents, refrain from political activities, Serbian Premier Stanko Radmilovic told a delegation of the international Helsinki Federation for Human Rights here on Friday [9 November].

The delegation, headed by the federation's secretary-general Gerald Naggler, is currently visiting Yugoslavia. Special attention in the talks was devoted to the state of human rights in the province of Kosovo, a statement issued after the meeting said.

Kosovo, an autonomous province within the Republic of Serbia, has been burdened over the decades with confrontations between the indigenous, minority population of Serbs, and the majority Albanian population.

Radmilovic warned the delegation that the problem of human rights in Kosovo cannot be viewed out of the context of aggressive attempts by the Albanian separatists to bring about a secession of Kosovo, and that the violations of human rights of the province's non-Albanian population must not be disregarded, the statement said. The delegation was given a special documentation on the latter issue.

The talks have helped eliminate misunderstandings over the delegation's visit to Yugoslavia last September, when its members were declared personae non gratae, the statement said. It has been established that the misunderstandings arose because members of the delegation were not aware that unauthorized trade in medicaments was not permitted under the Yugoslav laws.

It was agreed that the medicaments and propaganda material seized from the delegation members during the previous visit to Kosovo would be returned to them.

'Unrestricted Cooperation' Planned With Carinthia

LD1011055390 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2243 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 9 Nov (TANJUG)—In their talks today in Ljubljana, the capital of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia, a delegation of the Austrian Province of Carinthia, populated by the Slovene minority, and top officials of the Slovenian government, agreed on unrestricted cooperation between the two neighbouring territories in the economic, cultural, educational and other fields.

During the talks, the delegations, headed by Carinthian Premier Jorg Haider and Slovene Premier Lojze Peterle, respectively, agreed on opening more border-crossings for local border trade and traffic, education of Slovene children in Carinthia and other forms of cooperation.